



My Little Pony™

FAVOURITE STORIES

UNTY BOOKS BOUNTY BOOKS BOUNTY
**BOUNTY
PRICE
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OUNTY BOOKS BOUNTY BOOKS BOUNTY







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FIZZY AND THE FUNNY FROG



Fizzy was hurrying to join her friends when suddenly she slipped on a patch of ice. "Help! I can't stop," she called.



"Gruesome growls! You trod on my tail," barked Brandy. "What a clumsy pony you are, you're always slipping on something."



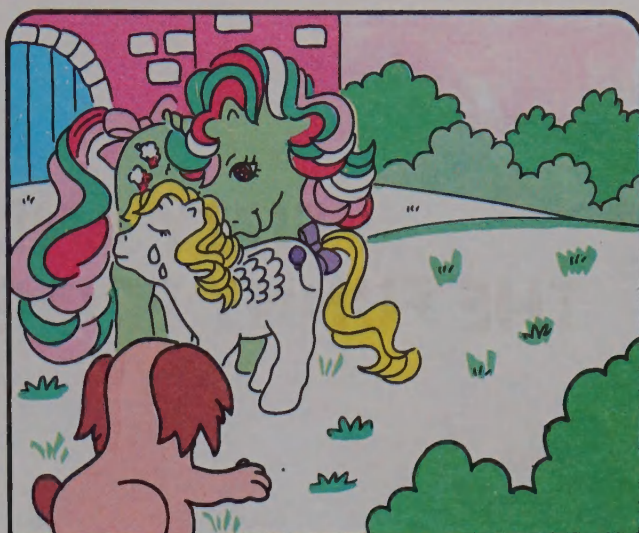
"Yes, you almost *bent* my tail, when you sat on it, yesterday," roared Spike. "It still feels peculiar!"



"Do you remember when you fell into my barrel of apples?" laughed Applejack. "You even got one stuck on your horn!" "I can't help being clumsy," sighed Fizzy. "I'll try to walk on tip-hooves." Poor Fizzy didn't see Baby Surprise's balloon until she trod on it.



"Oh, that was my new balloon!" cried Baby Surprise. "I got it from the pixie pedlar a few minutes ago."



"I'm sorry," Fizzy nuzzled the baby pony. "I'll go and find him and get you another one."
"He went that way," said Brandy.



Fizzy hurried out of the courtyard. She hadn't gone far when she heard a strange noise. "Hic! Hic!" Then she heard giggling and laughter. "Something's in this ditch," she muttered. She peeped down and saw lots of little goblins. They were laughing at a frog.



"We bought him some fizzy pop from the pixie pedlar," giggled the goblins, when they saw Fizzy. "And now..."



"Hic! Hic!" croaked the frog loudly. "Now I've got hiccups." "We just can't make him stop," chuckled the goblins.



"It's not kind to laugh at him!" Fizzy said. The goblins stopped laughing and suddenly the frog gave an enormous hiccup.



The hiccup made Fizzy jump so much that she fell into the ditch. "Leaping legs!" shouted the frog in dismay.



Fizzy and the frog landed with a bump. "You clever pony!" called the goblins. "You've stopped his hiccups."



"They're right. You have," croaked the frog. "I'm so glad you bumped into me. Fanciful frogs, you're marvellous."



"I'm *clumsy*," sighed Fizzy, "and I pop balloons." "I'll turn the fizzy pop into an unpopable balloon," said the frog. "I'm a magic frog." He croaked a few words and the bottle turned into a beautiful balloon. "A reward for being clumsy," laughed the funny frog.

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BUBBLES AND THE HUBBLE-BUBBLES



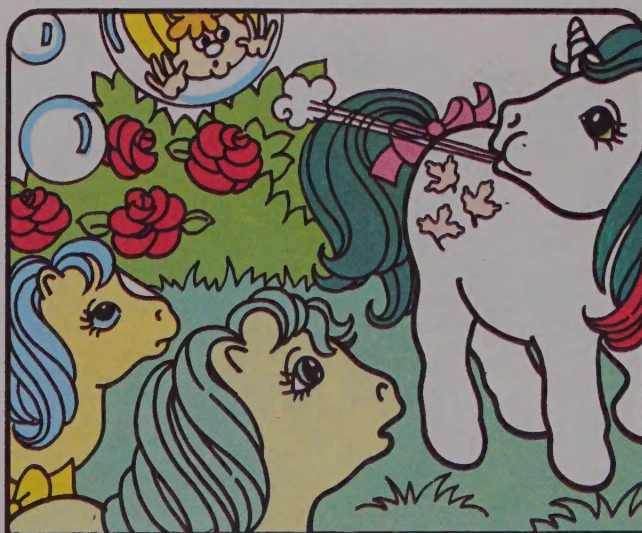
One day, Bubbles, Tootsie and Gusty were playing on the slopes of the Magic Mountain. Cotton Candy was picking flowers.



Suddenly Bubbles gave a cry of surprise. "Look at those *giant* bubbles floating towards us!" she cried. "There's someone inside them!" called Cotton Candy, and she hid behind a tree. "Heavy hooves, I hope they don't mean trouble!" sighed Gusty.



"Pollipop latch!" said Tootsie quickly. "That's no use... they'll still be above us!" cried Gusty. "I know I'll..."



"... blow them back from where they've come... wherever that might be. They don't live in Pony Land... I know that!"



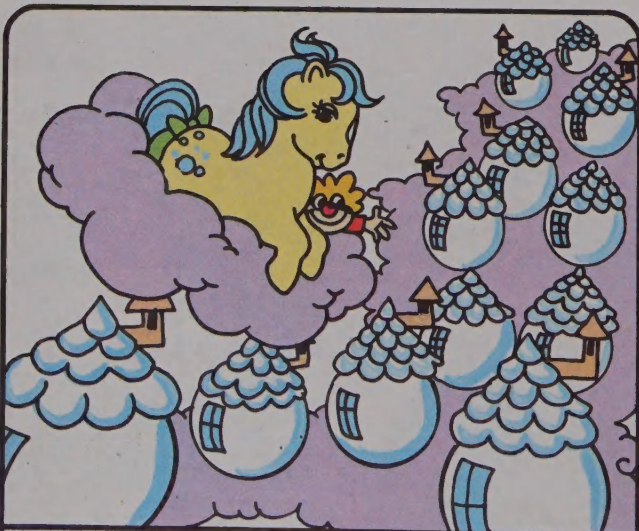
"Ouch... why did you do that?" cried the little men crossly. "You're just as bad as the Wind Wizard. We came for *help*."



"Who are you?" asked Bubbles finding her voice at last. "What do you want?" "We're Hubble-Bubbles," replied one tiny man.



"The Wind Wizard keeps huffing and puffing and blowing down our houses. Will you come and help us to stop him?" "We'll try," said Bubbles. "But how can we get there?" "Climb on a cloud and I'll take you," called their friend the Weather Witch.



As they neared Hubble-Bubble Town Bubbles laughed. "Pony feathers, you all live in bubble houses!" she chuckled. "Of course!"



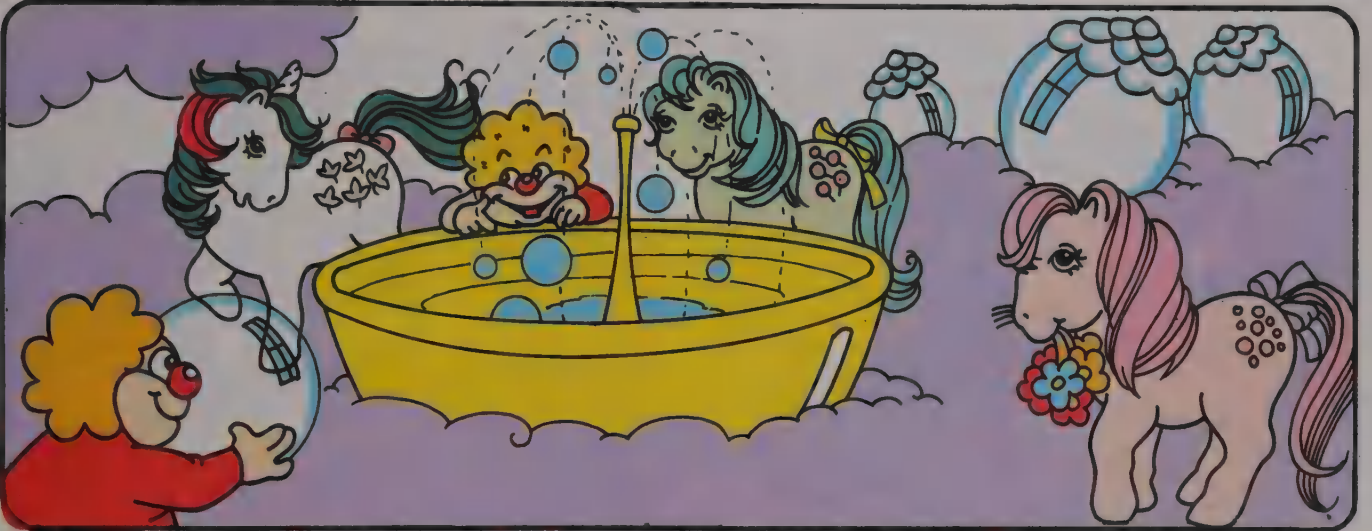
"Pony feathers, look, the Wind Wizard is trying to blow down one of the houses!" said Bubbles. "Stop him, Gusty."



"I can outblow you any time," said Gusty. "Away you go and don't come back!" "You won't stop me!" cried the wizard!



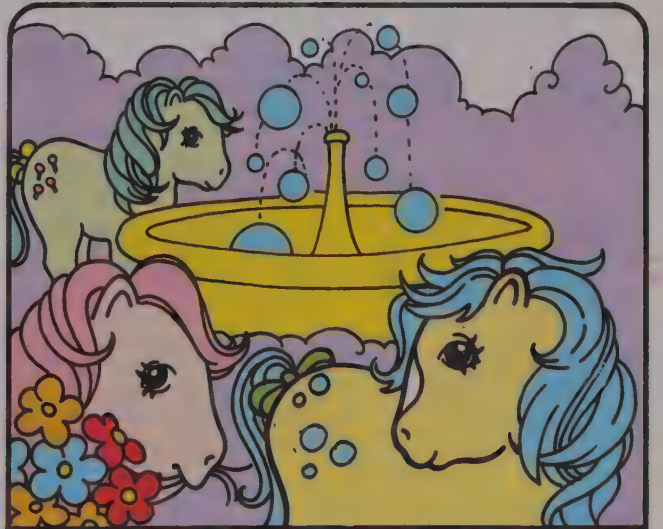
"He will soon be back with a very strong wind spell," cried Hubblety. "Our bubble houses are so fragile, they soon burst!"



"How do you make a new house when the wizard bursts your bubbles?" asked Bubbles. "We go and bring another from our Bubble Fountain," replied Hubblety. "Show us where it is," said Gusty. "Perhaps we can help you there!" So off they went to the fountain.



"Your bubbles are beautiful but they need to be stronger," said Bubbles. Suddenly she noticed Cotton Candy nibbling away.



"Stop eating those soapworts and give them to me. I have an idea how to stop the Wind Wizard's tricks," cried Bubbles.



"What are you going to do?" asked Hubble-Bubbles eagerly. "Oh, please don't throw the flowers into the water. It must be kept clear!"



"Tootsie, quickly, find me a magic clover so that I can make a strong wishing spell!" cried Bubbles. "Here you are!" said Tootsie.



"You naughty pony, you've thrown the clover in the water now!" shouted the Hubble-Bubbles. "Oh... what's happening?"



As they watched, the water swirled and shimmered and great big rainbow bubbles appeared. Then each one changed...



"The sun will warm your houses. You will not need a chimney. The soapwort bubbles are too strong for the Wizard to blow down... Tootsie's magic clover has done its work! You are all quite safe now," said Bubbles.



LICKETY-SPLIT'S LONG GALLOP



"Majesty," said Lemon Drop one day as the royal little pony called at the Show Stable to have a chat about the Spring Show, "have you noticed how plump Lickety-Split is getting? It's all those ice-cream cornets and ice-cream cakes she keeps making... and sampling before she gives them away! If something isn't done soon, she'll not be able to jump through the floral hoops. Just imagine, a little pony stuck in a hoop! How everyone would laugh at us!"

"Yes, she only just managed to squeeze through the Pony Hole in the hawthorn hedge yesterday," Majesty agreed. "We can always tell if our little ponies are putting on weight with the hole... it's as good as a pair of scales!"

"Shall we ask her to stop making ice-cream?" asked Lemon Drop rather doubtfully. "It does seem a pity... she promised me some lemon sorbet today!"

Majesty laughed. "I should hate not to have a taste of your lemon sorbet," she chuckled. "No, I have a better idea. Have you forgotten what day it is tomorrow?"

Lemon Drop shook her head and laughed. "We'll send Lickety-Split off on the Long Gallop," she cried. "How shall we do it?"





"Leave it to me," replied Majesty and she went back to Dream Castle to write a very important letter.

Next morning Majesty called Lickety-Split to the castle. "I want you to take an important letter for me to Goblin Greensleeves," she said. "Now do take care, Lickety-Split. Don't lose it!"

"Happy hooves, I'll run as fast as I can. I've never been a Little Pony Messenger before," cried Lickety-Split proudly.

And off she set.

But, when she arrived at Goblin Green and gave the letter to Goblin Greensleeves he opened it and shook his head.

"This letter is for Fairy Stitchwort over in Flower Bower," he said with a twinkle in his eye. "Off you go!"

"I'm *sure* Majesty said it was for Goblin Greensleeves!" muttered Lickety-Split as she galloped away to Flower Bower.

"It's not for me... it's for Wizard Wando over in Feathery Fields," said Fairy Stitchwort, with a secret little smile after she had read the letter.

"I'm getting quite tired now," muttered Lickety-Split. And she got even more tired as she set off back to the Show Stable.

"The wizard was laughing when he told me the letter was really for Lemon Drop," cried Lickety-Split. "I do hope it is... I've galloped miles and miles!"

When at last Lickety-Split arrived back at the Show Stable, she found Majesty and several of her little pony friends waiting for her.

"I've taken this letter everywhere... here, the wizard says it's for you! Do read it and tell me what it says," she begged Lemon Drop. "I'm quite worn out!"

Lemon Drop opened the letter.

"On the first of April, little ponies have great fun, Sending on a journey a very special one. The letter tells the reader to send her on a mile, Let Lickety-Split, our pony, gallop on a while!"

She chuckled.

"Do you mean I've run and run for nothing? What a silly trick!" cried Lickety-Split crossly.

"Pony feathers, please don't be cross," begged Majesty. "Surely you remember we send a pony on a long gallop on April Fun Day? And I did have a special reason for sending you this year. Look, try to jump through Lemon Drop's spring flower hoop!"

"I'm too tired... er... I don't think..." began Lickety-Split, remembering the tight squeeze in the hawthorn hedge. "Well, I suppose I might try... pony feathers, I've jumped through with lots of room to spare! I must have suddenly got thinner!"

"You see, it was worth your long gallop," laughed Majesty. "It's made you lose weight."

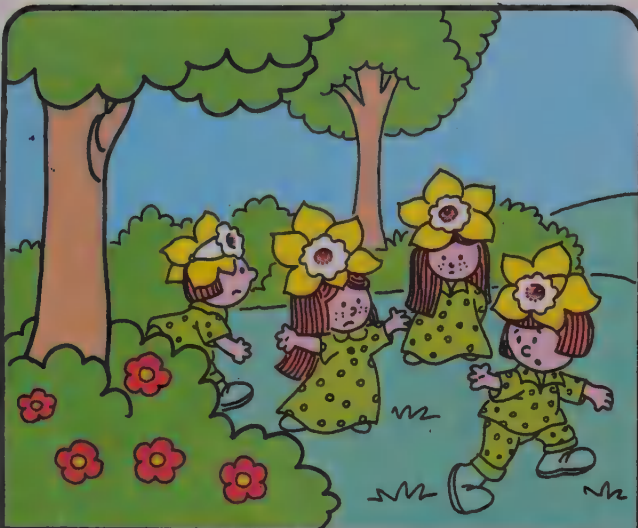


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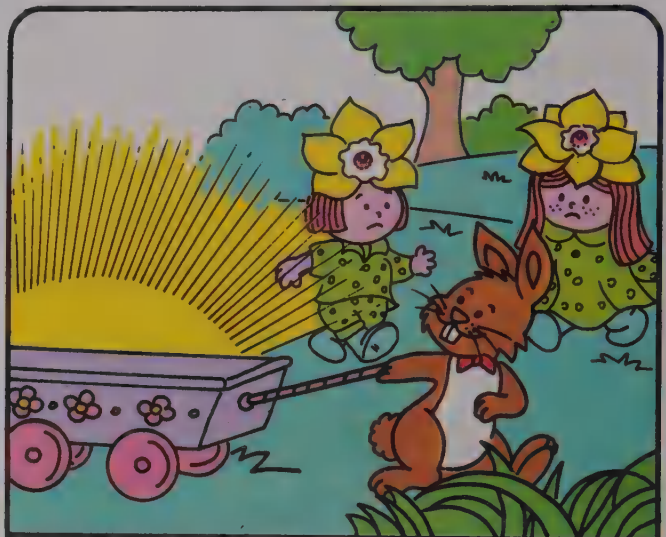
BABY LUCKY AND THE DAFFODOWN DILLIES



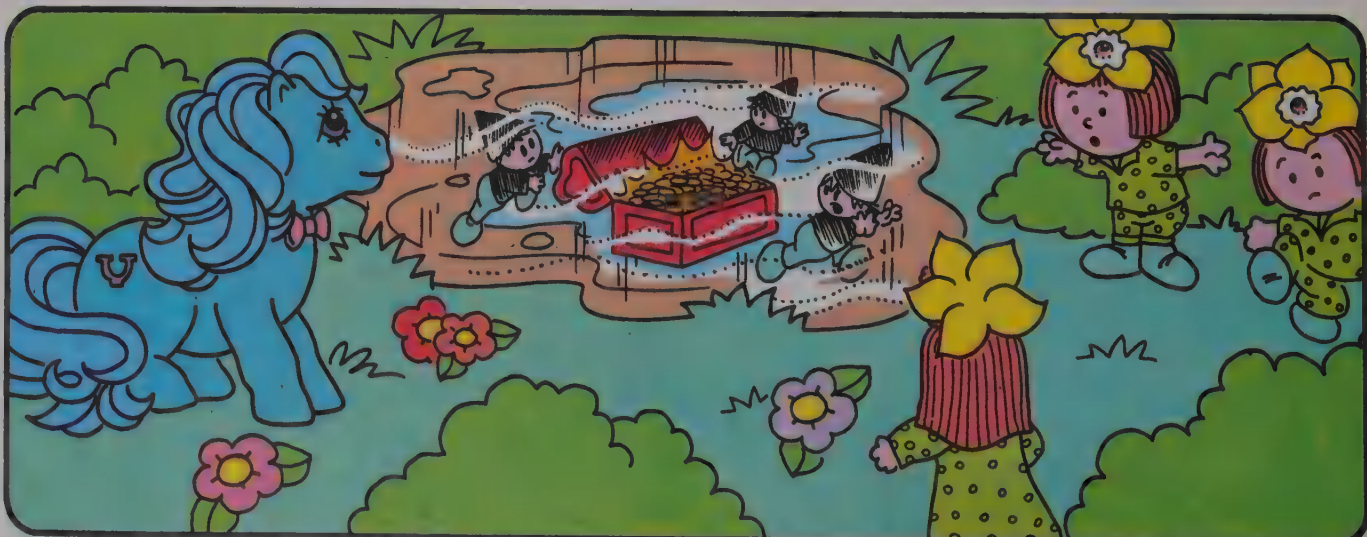
Early one morning as Baby Lucky was walking towards Daffodil Dale he heard someone crying loudly.



As Baby Lucky drew nearer he saw a crowd of little people all looking very upset. They ran towards the baby pony for help.



"We are the Daffodown Dillies and each year we take a chest of gold to the Flower Sorcerer," explained the leader.



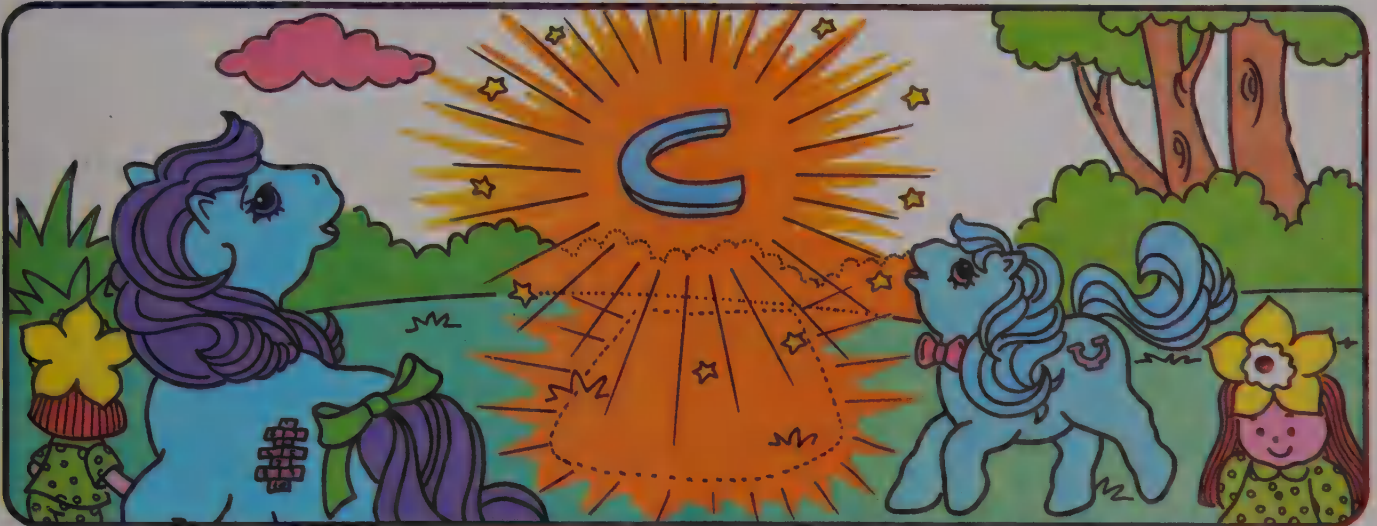
"Look in the magic pool to see what happened!" cried the little people. "The Wicked Weed trolls stole it from us. They will take it back to their underground cave... and the Sorcerer will not be able to make any daffodils this year. He uses the coins to make the flowers!"



"Two of you must show me the way to the trolls' cave and I will try to help," promised Baby Lucky. "Let's go quickly."



"We must go through the dark hole," cried the Daffodown Dillies looking afraid. "Look, there it is, near the ponies!"



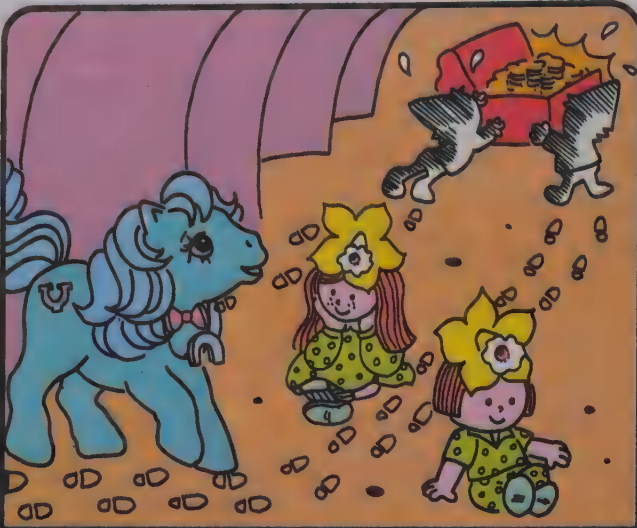
The two ponies were angry when they heard about the stolen gold. "We must all help to get it back," said Hopscotch. "I wish your hopscotch sign could help, horseshoes are supposed to be lucky," said Baby Lucky. "Happy hooves, what's happening? The shape's turning into..."



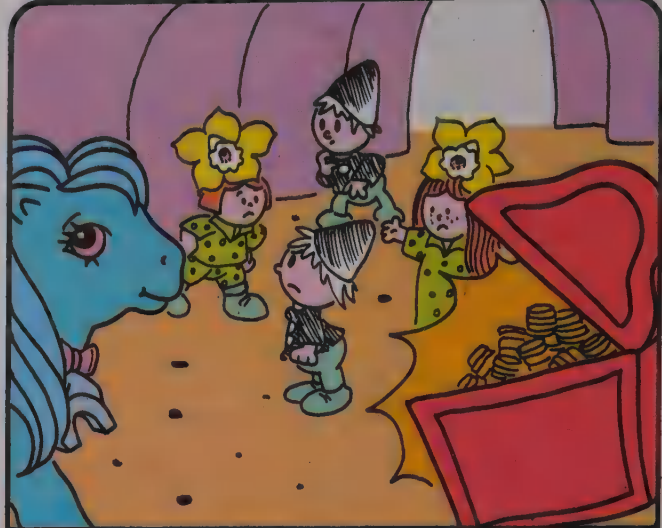
"... a magic magnet!" laughed Hopscotch. "Take the magnet with you... and you'll be able to get back the gold!"



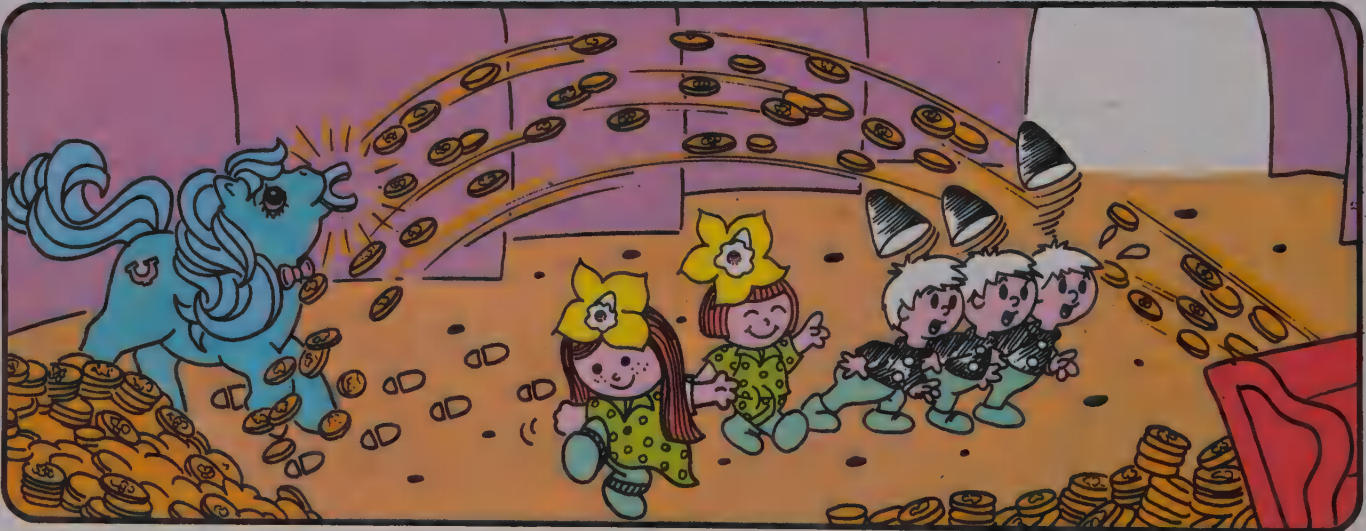
"Off you go through the hole," cried Magic Star, touching her wand. The hole shimmered and a pair of stepladders appeared.



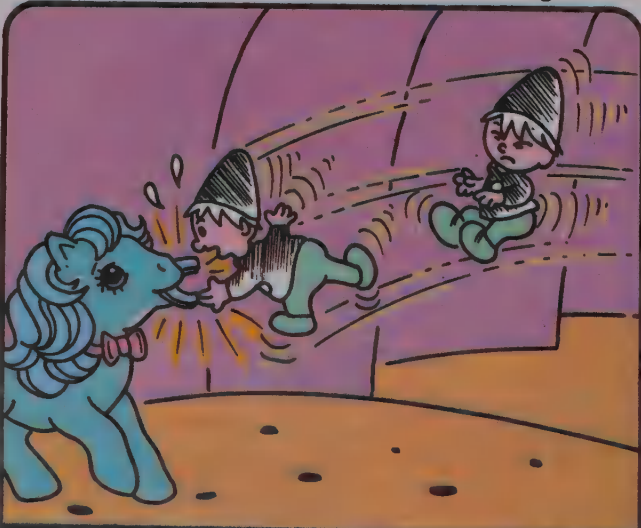
Down and down went Baby Lucky and the two Daffodown Dillies until at last... "There they are!" cried Baby Lucky.



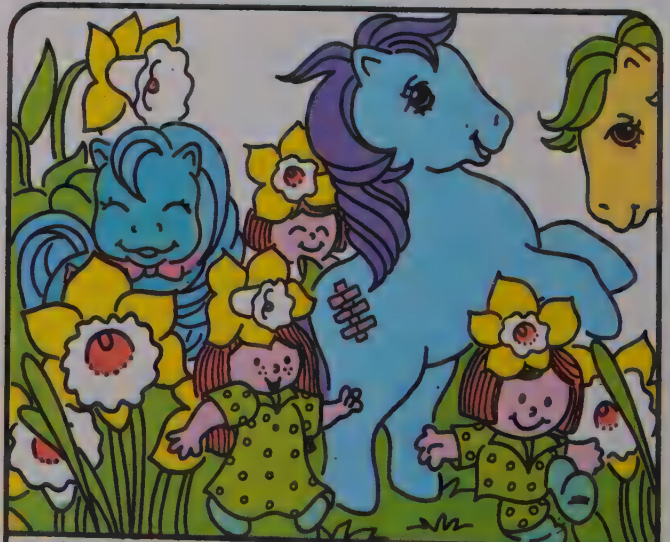
"Give us back our gold," called the Daffodown Dillies. "We want it for our daffodils!" "We'll bury it!" said the trolls.



"Take it *if you can*," jeered the trolls. "Happy horseshoes, I'll do just that ...and I wish it would float right back to the Sorcerer in Daffodown Dilly Dale!" cried Baby Lucky. "Magic magnet take the gold away... horseshoe magnet do what I say!"



"You'll never get away!" screamed the trolls. "Yes, we will, you've forgotten you're all wearing silver buttons on your suits!"



Baby Lucky and his friends climbed the ladder and everywhere above, daffodils bloomed... thanks to Baby Lucky!



SHOW STABLE TIDY-UP DAY



"Come along, baby ponies, it's time we gave the Show Stable a spring-clean," said Lemon Drop. "It's looking rather shabby after all the rain and snow we've had this winter. Baby Gusty, bring the broom. Baby Lucky, get a pail of soft water from the Waterfall. Baby Lickety-Split, go and ask Confetti for some soft paper dusters."

Off went the baby ponies and soon everyone was hard at work.

Baby Lucky washed the floor and Baby Lickety-Split polished it until they could both see themselves in it.

"It looks just like a deep pool... I wish it was... all this hard work has made me hot... Happy-go-Lucky, I wish I could cool down a bit," cried Baby Lucky.

"Happy hooves, Baby Lucky, it's turned into a deep river... come on... let's go in," said Baby Lickety. "Pony feathers, it's a mint ice-cream river. It tastes delicious! You are clever!"

"What did I do?" asked Baby Lucky looking rather puzzled. "Oh, Baby Lickety, you've drunk up all the river... it's just a polished stable floor again," he giggled.

"Let's go and see if Baby Gusty has swept up all the fallen leaves... the wind has blown lots off the trees today," said Baby Lickety-Split. "Pony feathers, yes, look, everything has been swept clean now... and Baby Gusty is dancing with her broom!"

"Don't forget to polish my cups, I don't want them to look dull," cried Lemon Drop who was busy checking her new fences. "Oh, pony feathers, I forgot to get any polish. Now what shall we do?"

"I've got lots of silver ribbons... could we use those?" asked Baby Ribbon.





"We can try... Happy-go-Lucky, I wish that they were silver polishing ribbons, just like the ones Majesty makes for cleaning her magic shoes," muttered Baby Lucky to Baby Gusty, as Baby Ribbon handed everyone a bunch of ribbons.

"Hey, Baby Lucky, you've done it again... happy horseshoes! We've all got a silver polishing cloth," laughed Baby Gusty. "The cups will soon shine as bright as ever now!"

"Let's see who can get the brightest shine," cried Baby Lickety-Split as she started to polish her cup.

The babies polished and polished until every cup in the Show Stable gleamed as bright as the new silvery moon.

"You've all done really well," cried Lemon Drop looking very pleased. "Every cup deserves a prize... in fact you all deserve a special rosette... a silver one!"

"Oh, pony feathers, I've no silver ribbons left," sighed Baby Ribbon. "I haven't *any* ribbons at all!"

The baby ponies all looked disappointed.

"Can't you do anything?" asked Lemon Drop to Baby Lucky.

The baby boy pony shook his head. "I can't..." he began. Then Baby Lucky stopped. Coming towards him was tiny Sammy Snail and... as he crawled along Sammy left a *silver* trail behind him!

"Oh, Happy-go-Lucky, Sammy, you've come along just at the right moment," cried Baby Lucky happily. "What a lucky little pony I am... Snail trail of silver hue, change to ribbons of silver too! A rosette of silver for one and all, and decorate Lemon Drop's stable stall!"

"Pony feathers, we've all got a silver rosette... and how pretty the Show Stable looks decked out with silver ribbons," cried the little ponies. "Well done, Baby Lucky!"

"Oh, happy horseshoes, I'm just lucky that Sammy came along and my magic rhyme worked," said Baby Lucky shyly.

But we know better, don't we?

ROCK CANDY MAGIC



Some of the little ponies had gone for a nibble up the delicious Rock Candy Mountain where every kind of sweet grew.



"I do love it here," cried Baby Applejack, nibbling an apple from the toffee apple tree. "I think I'll stay here instead of going back to the Lullaby Nursery." "Pony feathers, you won't...little baby ponies sleep in *beds*!" said Magic Star.



"Please let her stay. I get so lonely up here by myself. I am the only Candy Floss fairy on the mountain."



"Your poor little fairy," cried Magic Star. "I'll grant each pony a wish so that they can each make you a sweet companion!"



Baby Lickety-Split wished first...and suddenly a troupe of ice-cream imps appeared. "You feel cold!" said the baby.



Lemon Drop wished hard and two cross looking ladies appeared...and jumped over a lollipop bush...just like Lemon Drop!



"You've forgotten to build us a house," they grumbled to Lemon Drop. "No, I haven't," she replied. "It's over there, made from Lemon Drops!" "What sour faces they've got," Fairy Candy whispered to Cotton Candy. "I'll make you a sugar plum friend," Cotton Candy said.



Cotton Candy used her wish and down from the tree flew a lovely Sugar Plum Fairy. Candy was so pleased!



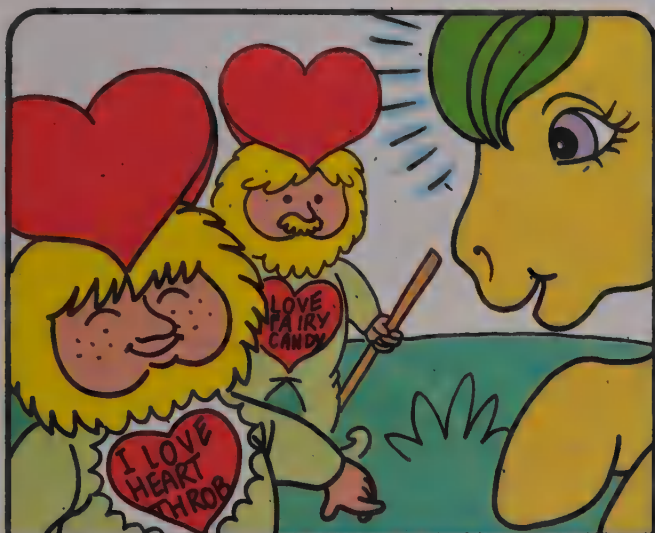
Magic Star sent word to Majesty and the royal pony twirled her horn so that the others could use their wishes.



Back on the mountain two red-cheeked gnomes appeared, wished there by Cherries Jubilee. They were old and wise.



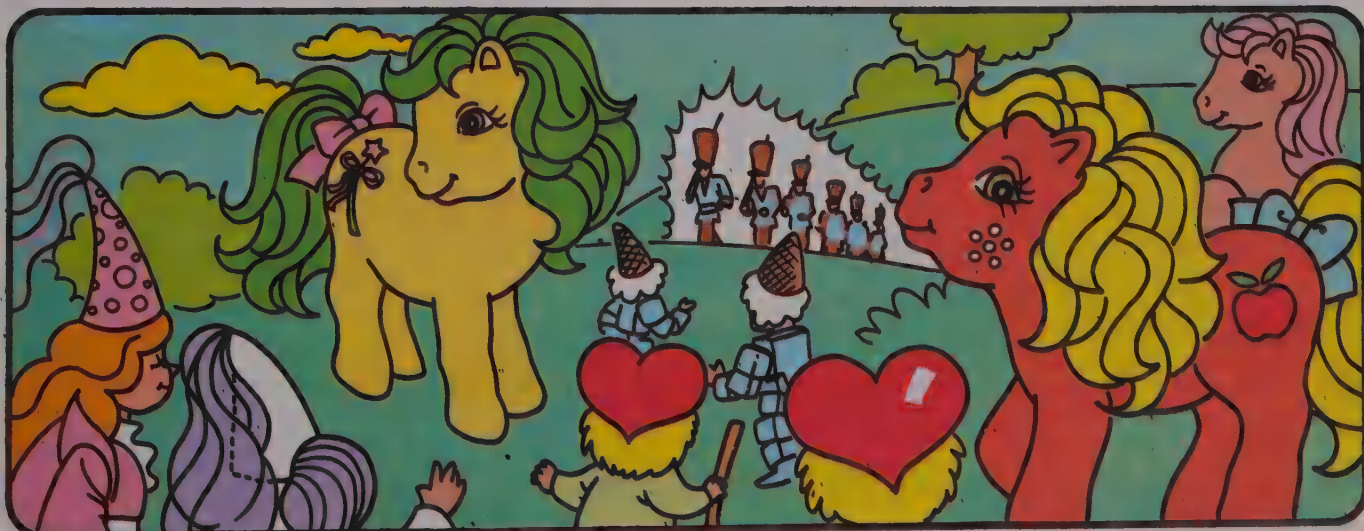
"My name is Sweet Cherry and this is old Cherry Jubjube," said one gnome. "You're very welcome," said Fairy Candy.



"I know who wished for you!" cried Magic Star, as two pixies appeared. They had heart-shaped hats on their heads.

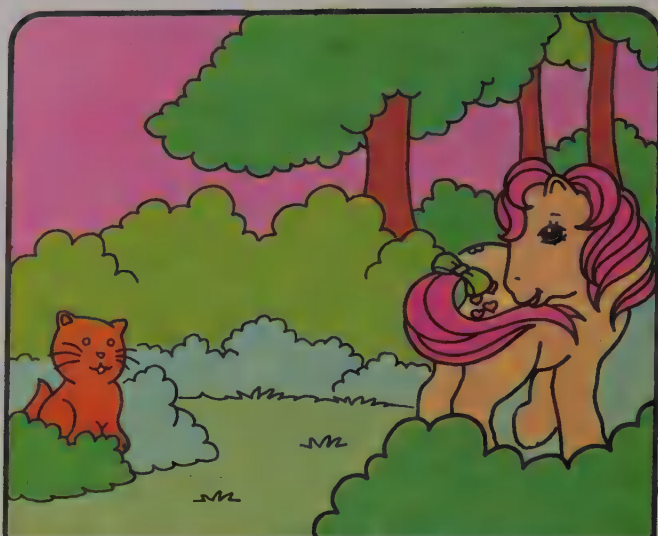


"Oh, thank you, everyone. Now I have lots of friends," cried Fairy Candy. "Oh...what's happening?"



"Don't be afraid," laughed Magic Star. "It's just your final friends sent by Majesty...a troop of chocolate soldiers to protect you from any unwelcome visitors!" "What a wonderful gift," cried Fairy Candy. "But I promise...they will never chase you away!"

PEACHY AND THE STRANGE EGG



Peachy and Twinkles were playing 'hide and seek' among the trees in the Weird Wood. Suddenly Twinkles gave a startled mew!



"Come and see what I've found," the cat called to Peachy. "It's an enormous egg... but very pretty!"



"It's a rainbow egg... I've never seen one like that before," said Peachy. "Fruit and flowers, it's cracking open!"



Suddenly a tiny head popped up. "Help me out of the egg, please," said a voice. "I've been waiting ages to get out!"



"Who are you, and why are you here?" asked Peachy. "I'm Egbert, the rainbow egg and I've come to... oh, I've forgotten!"



"Forgotten what?" asked Peachy. "I've been sent for a very important reason, something to do with the Rainbow," said the egg.



The little ponies were very surprised to see Egbert. "You came out of an egg?" they said. "We thought birds came from eggs!"



"Egbert has come for an important reason... it's connected with the Rainbow... but he was in the egg so long, he's forgotten what it is," said Peachy. "We must all try and help him to remember! Think hard, everyone! What's special about the Rainbow?"



"Have you come to paint the Rainbow?" Sky asked. "It's pretty enough," Egbert said. "I like sliding down it into the pool."



Suddenly Majesty appeared with Magic Star. "I see you've arrived at last, Egbert. Off you go to the end of the Rainbow!"



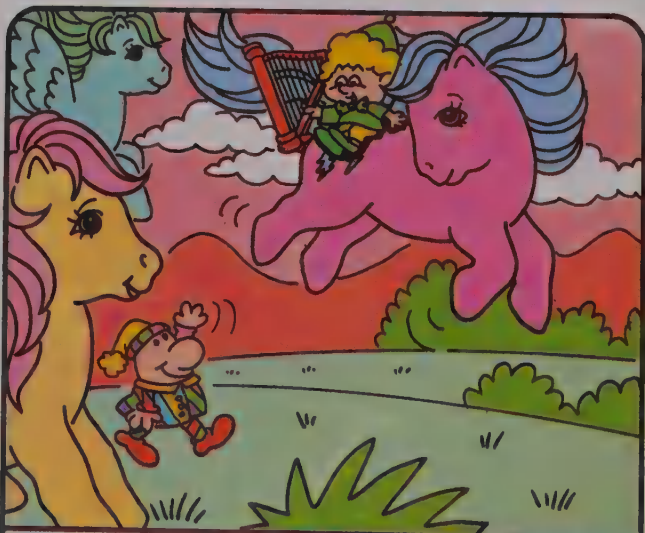
"Peachy will show you the way! Hurry, someone is waiting for you...to make a wish come true," shouted Magic Star.



"What's at the end of the Rainbow?" asked Egbert. "I'm beginning to remember something...at the end of the..."



"I thought you were never coming," Liam cried crossly. "I made a wish long ago for a day's holiday...and wished for someone to mind my crock of gold! Magic Star *promised* it would come true!" "Now I remember, I've come to guard your gold!" laughed Egbert happily.



So off went Liam to play his harp at the elfin ball with Medley and Firefly...knowing his gold was safe.



And after the ball Liam spent the day riding the Rainbow and splashing in the pool... thanks to Egbert, the Rainbow Egg!



ONE MISTY MORNING



One morning Magic Star went for a walk through Goblin Glen. "How pretty the leaves look," she said to herself. "But pony feathers, how misty it's getting...I can scarcely see where I'm going. Oh, sorry, have I hurt you?" she cried anxiously as she suddenly stumbled against a figure in the mist.

"No, it's all right, but I'm not as nimble on my feet as I used to be," replied a familiar voice. "Oh, it's Magic Star!"

"Good morning, Goblin Greybeard," replied the little pony. "Where are you going on this wet morning? Is your bag heavy? Perhaps I can carry it for you?"

"What a lot of questions for such a little pony," chuckled the goblin. "But, yes, my bag *is* heavy and I should be very grateful if you would carry it for me. As to where I am going...well...I don't really know...I'm on my way to find a new house. You see, a terrible storm blew my old one away, and I'm getting too old to sleep outside under the stars in a fairy bower!"

"I will walk with you and carry your bag," cried Magic Star at once. "The road will not seem as long if we walk and talk together."

And so the little pony and the old goblin made their way through the mist but they didn't find any houses on the way.

"Let me help you over the stile," offered Magic Star as they walked through the empty fields!

As Magic Star held out her hoof to help the old goblin over the stile, she suddenly smiled to herself and the wand on her rump shimmered and whirled around.





"Sun and stars, look, I've found a silver penny," cried Goblin Greybeard. "This will come in useful...it will help me buy something nice for my house when I find it!"

"Can you hear something?" asked Magic Star suddenly. "It sounds like a cat! I do hope that Peachy and Twinkles haven't got lost on this misty morning. Twinkles...is that you?"

"No...it's me...Greeneyes, the witch's cat," replied a little cat coming up to them out of the mist. "I've run away...I don't want to be a witch's cat anymore. I just want to be an ordinary cat and sit by the fire with someone who will be kind to me!"

"Do you hunt mice?" asked the goblin.

"Oh no, I like mice...that is why the witch used to get angry with me!" sighed the cat.

"I like mice too," replied Goblin Greybeard. "And I like cats...especially black ones with green eyes. Would you like to be *my* cat and live with me in my house?"

"Oh yes, please," cried Greeneyes and he rubbed his head against the old goblin. "Where is your house?"

"I haven't found one yet," explained Goblin Greybeard sadly.

"Happy hooves, Greybeard, look, there's an empty house over there," said Magic Star.

"Where...I can't see anything?" cried the goblin.

"Over there, near the shepherd's purse patch near the holly bush," replied Magic Star, and her magic wishing wand shimmered and shone.

"Let's go inside," suggested Magic Star with a smile.

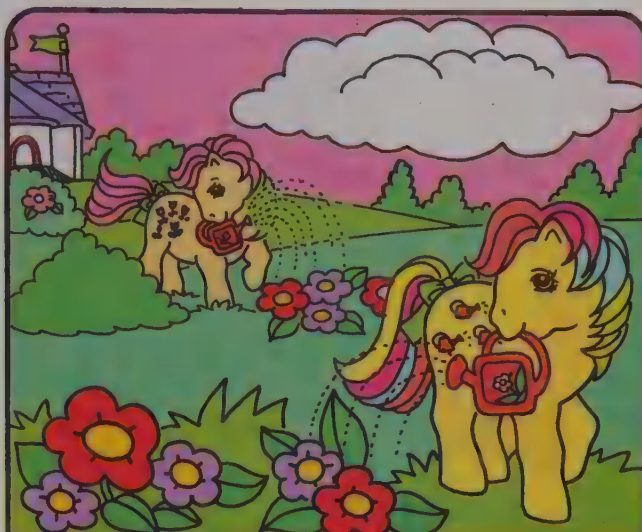
Inside, the table was laid with a tasty meal, with a bowl of cream for Greeneyes, and a lovely old rocking chair was set by a glowing fire.

"There's a bed and basket upstairs for you both," Magic Star told them. "And finally, here's a shepherd's purse flower to put your silver penny in. Don't be afraid to spend it, because whenever you do, another silver penny will always appear!"

So, Greybeard and his cat settled happily in their new home. Often, when Magic Star went to call on them, she would hear the old goblin telling the family of mice, who lived in the cottage, of the wonderful misty morning when he met Magic Star!

My Little Pony

POSEY AND THE MAGIC SEEDS



One morning Posey and Trickles were watering the flowers outside the Show Stable when suddenly...



"Someone's throwing something from that cloud!" cried Posey. "Try and catch it, Trickles!"



"Well caught, Trickles, what does it say?" cried Posey. "It says PLANT ME..." replied Trickles opening the packet.



"Let's plant them at once," cried Posey. "I love new flowers!" "I'm not sure..." began Trickles...but she was too late!



"I wonder how quickly the seeds will grow?" said Posey. "Pony feathers, look, they're pushing through the soil now!"



As they watched, the plant grew and grew until it reached the inside of the cloud. Suddenly there was a big laugh!



"Those seeds were magic...I wish we hadn't planted them!" cried Posey. "Heavy hooves, someone's coming down!"



It was the Cloud Giant who had always wanted to live in Pony Land but had never been able to get there...until now!



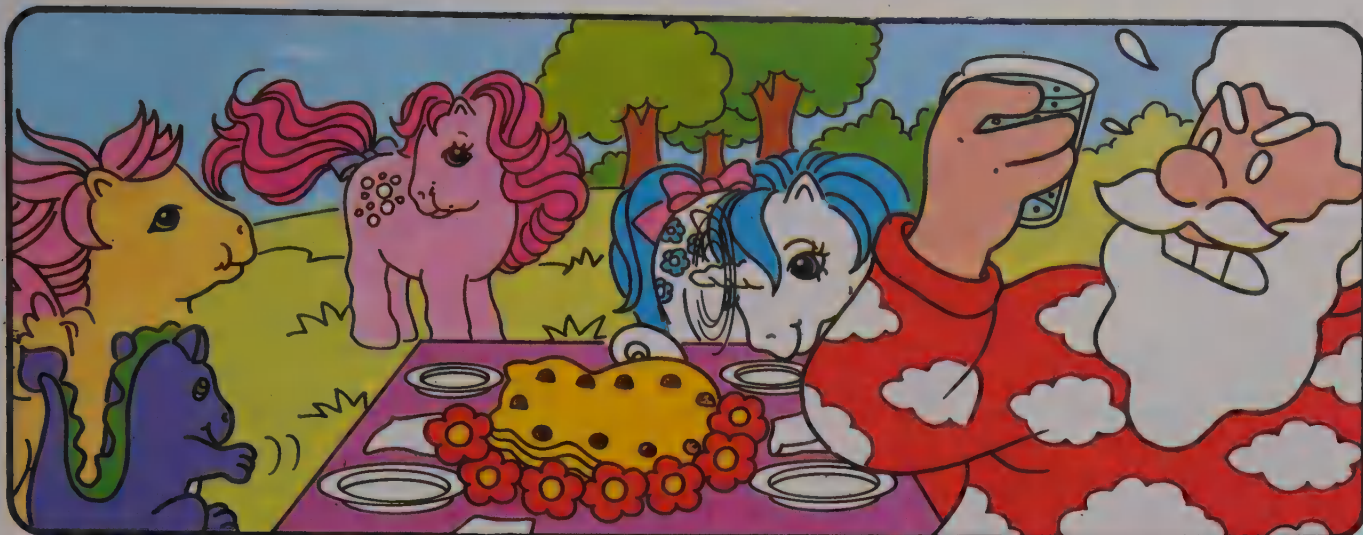
He tucked both little ponies under his arms and set off to Dream Castle. "I shall live there with Majesty now!"



Majesty had seen what had happened in her magic mirror. "Don't worry, ponies," she said. "I have a plan!"



Majesty met the giant outside her castle. "Do stay to lunch," she said kindly. "It's all ready for you!"



Majesty had provided a wonderful feast. "Delicious!" said Posey. "Cool and refreshing!" laughed Trickles. "My drink's like ditch water and these cakes taste like sawdust," grumbled the giant. Spike smiled...now he knew why Majesty had twirled her horn!



"I don't think much of your food! I want to rest now...my climb down the cloud has made me tired," said the giant.



Baby Lucky had made sure the bed was big enough...but the baby ponies had filled it with pebbles!



The Cloud Giant didn't sleep a wink! "Pony Land is a terrible place...I'm going home!" he told Majesty crossly.



As the giant disappeared into his cloud the plant withered and died. "He won't be back," laughed Majesty...and she was right!



FLUTTERBYE AND THE SPIDER



Flutterbye, one of the pegasus ponies, was out one day carrying a message to the Flower Fairy Queen from Majesty.

As she looked down she saw Septimus Spider crawling along the hawthorn hedge which was bright with flowers.

"Hello, Flutterbye, isn't it a lovely day?" called Septimus.

But Flutterbye just tossed her head and pretended not to hear as she flew on.

"I'm afraid Flutterbye does not like me," poor Septimus said to Baby Lucky. "She says that I am an ugly hairy creature with long, spindly legs...she says that I frighten her a little!"

"That's silly...ponies look like ponies...and spiders look like spiders!" said Baby Lucky. "Besides, surely she sees the lovely webs that you spin...delicate as cobwebs. They make the trees and hedges like tables spread with pretty lace."

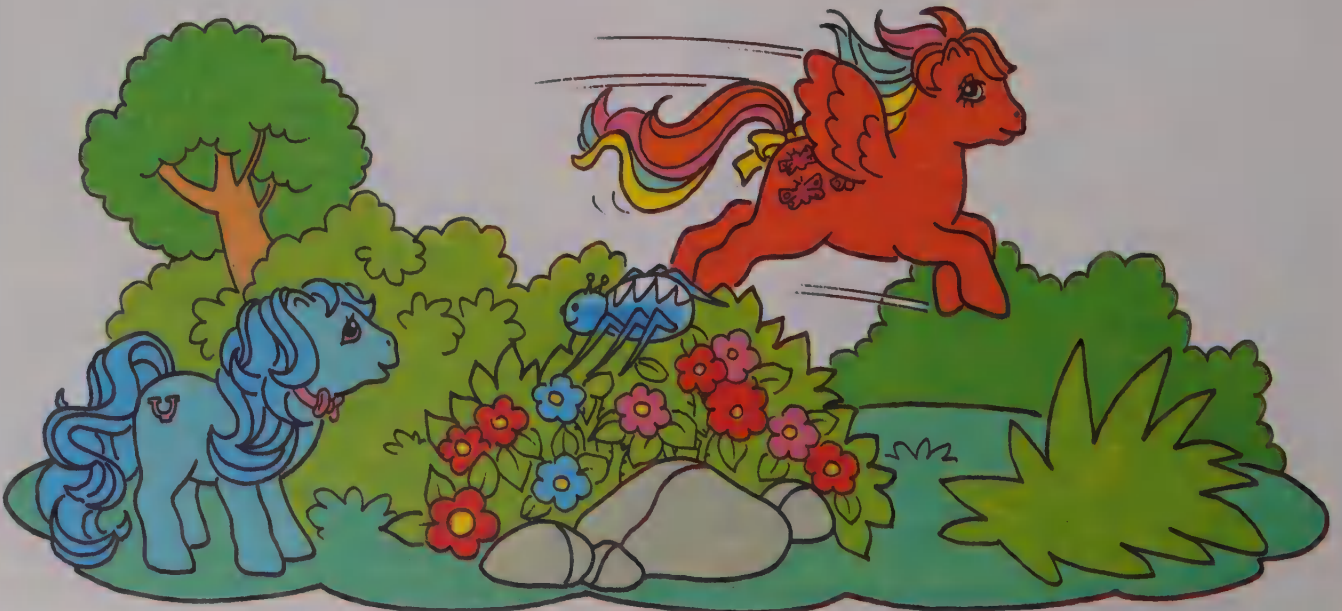
"Why, thank you, Baby Lucky," cried Septimus looking very pleased. "The Flower Fairies like my webs too...they use the gossamer threads to trim their dresses and cloaks and to make light bedspreads to cover the fairy babies in their walnut shell cradles. All the other little ponies like me...I do wish that Flutterbye would forget how I looked and realise that I'm a good little spider really."

"Perhaps it may happen sooner than you think," said Baby Lucky.

And do you know, it did!

Later that very day Septimus was busy spinning a web for a roll of cloth for Fairy Stitchwort, the fairy dressmaker, near where Baby Lucky and the other baby ponies were enjoying a game of hopscotch with Hopscotch.

"Well jumped, Baby Ribbon," cried Septimus, as the little pony landed on the last square with four hooves. "Oh, look, everyone, here comes Flutterbye...and she seems to be in trouble!"





"What's wrong Flutterbye?" called Baby Lucky.

"I've hurt my wing and can't fly properly," cried poor Flutterbye, sounding quite frightened. "I'm going to crash down soon and hurt myself. Heavy hooves, can someone help me?"

"Shall I run back to Dream Castle and get Majesty?" cried Baby Lucky to Septimus.

"No, that will be too late. Baby ponies, I am going to try and spin a large web. You must all hold onto it tightly and let's hope that Flutterbye will land safely," cried Septimus.

As Flutterbye dropped down, the baby ponies held onto the web which Septimus had woven.

"Cobwebs and lace, I don't think it is big enough," cried Septimus.

"Happy-go-lucky, I wish it was as big as a blanket," whispered Baby Lucky. "Happy horseshoes look, it's growing simply enormous! Hang on tightly, everyone, don't let it break!"

And, as everyone held on tightly, Flutterbye dropped down and landed safely right in the middle of Septimus's web.

"What a lucky little pony I am and so lucky to have my wish come true," cried Baby Lucky, as he helped Flutterbye out of the cobweb safety net.

"And I'm a very lucky pony to have such a kind spider to make me a safety net when I was so horrid to him," said Flutterbye, looking very ashamed of herself. "Will you please forgive me, Septimus, and will you be friends with me?"

"Oh, Flutterbye, of course I will...that's what I've always wanted!" said the spider in delight. "And I will bandage up your wing with my cobweb so that it will heal quickly. It will be so soft and gentle that you will not even know that you have a bandage on it!"

And the next day when the woodland animals went down to the Flowery Fields to see the Flower Fairies pass by on their way to the wedding of Princess Carnation to the King of the Woodland Elves, there was Septimus Spider sitting on a hawthorn bush chatting happily to his best friend, Flutterbye, the little pony!

THE WITCH'S GARDEN



Majesty and Spike were busy tidying up after the ponies had been for lunch at Dream Castle.



"Pony feathers, these bowls haven't been touched, I can't even remember seeing them either!" cried Majesty.



Just then Farmer Barleycorn from Nursery Rhyme Land came running up with Bessie the dairymaid. They looked upset.



"Majesty! Buttercup and Daisy my best cows have disappeared!" cried the farmer. "Everyone's waiting for their milk!"



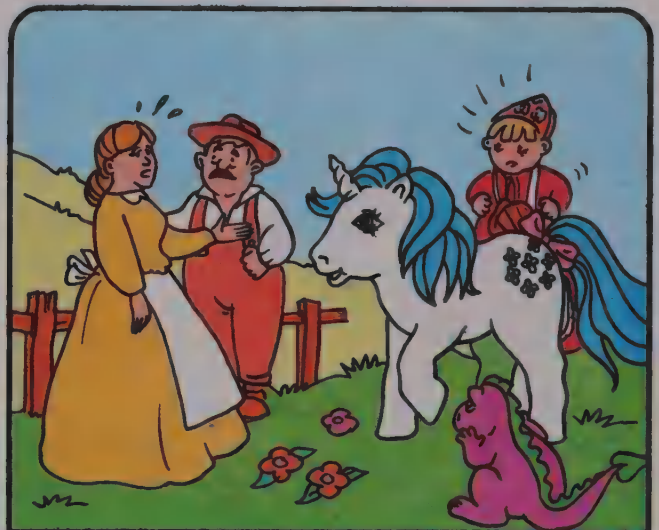
"Has anyone seen Swift the hare?" called Sky the kingfisher. "All his woodland friends are looking for him!"



"Perhaps my ponies went over to Barleycorn Farm and are playing hide and seek with your cows," said Majesty. "I will come back with you and we will all have a really good look around."
 "Oh, thank you, Majesty," said Bessie.



But, as they reached the farm, Mrs Barleycorn ran out. "Barney the bull has disappeared now!" she cried.



"Did you see anyone near the farm?" asked Majesty. "I saw Witch Wanda on her broomstick!" said the farmer's wife.



"I think I am beginning to understand," said Majesty. "I think we had better go and see Witch Wanda...or rather, look in her garden!" "Flames and fire, do we have to?" cried Spike. "She's such a bad tempered old witch." "I'll go, I want my cows back," cried Bessie bravely.



"The witch isn't here," said Spike. "Neither are my cows or the little ponies," said Bessie sadly.



Suddenly Witch Wanda appeared. "Get out of my garden," she screeched. "Only with what belongs to me!" Majesty said.



Majesty twirled her horn. "Cherry blossom, peach and appletree, turn once more to what you should be!



"Bulrush, daisy, buttercup, hare, return to the true form you share!" "My cows, my cows!" cried Bessie.



And, thanks to Majesty's special magic, the missing ponies and Swift the hare, Buttercup and Daisy the cows and Barney the bull were found. But a new strange tree appeared in the garden...a wych tree that looked just like Wanda!



WIND WHISTLER AND THE WANDERING WILL O'THE WISPS



Wind Whistler sang this merry little tune as she skipped happily between the blossom-laden trees in the wood.

"Here we go gathering nuts in May, nuts in May, nuts in May!"

"I've never seen nuts in May, they grow in autumn," scoffed Squeak Squirrel as he nibbled one of his beechmast which he had just found in the hollow oak where he had stored it last winter.

"Pony feathers, the song used to say knots in May, meaning sprays of blossom," explained Cotton Candy who had just come from sprinkling the baby rabbits with spring syrup. "Listen, what's that buzzing sound? Surely the bees aren't here already?"

"No, it's lots of little fairies... dressed in yellow and brown jerseys, just like the humble bees," cried Wind Whistler. "Who are you?"





"Well, we're not *bees*," snapped an older fairy who was the leader. "We're not fairies either! We're wisps... something quite different! And not ordinary wisps either... we're wandering will o'the wisps!"

"And so you've just wandered into Pony Land?" giggled Wind Whistler, panting hard and giving a silly little whistle.

"Does everyone make jokes like that?" muttered Willo crossly. "We wandered... because we do wander... we never go straight to a place, that's why it takes us so long to get anywhere... to see if someone in Pony Land could help me!"

Wind Whistler blushed. "I'm sorry," she said softly. "What can we do to help you?"

"Well, as you can see, there are lots and lots of us wisps," said Willo. "And we live in many different places. But once a year we gather for the GRAND WILLO GATHERING. Sometimes this is the only day that some wisps see each other. The air wisps fly down from the sky, the earth wisps meet the sea wisps who come from the depths of the waves. Oh, it is a lovely meeting... but..."

"But what?" asked Wind Whistler, as a large tear ran down the nose of the Chief Wisp.

"It has become impossible to let everyone know when the meeting is," sighed Willo. "By the time my wandering messengers have found the place I sent them to,

the wisps have moved on somewhere else. I don't think we will be able to hold our meeting in Dream Meadows now. I was so pleased when Majesty said we were welcome to come... only so many of my wisps don't know where to go!"

"Heavy hooves, what a pity," agreed Wind Whistler. "What you need is something that everyone will realise is a meeting summons. Wait, I have an idea!" Suddenly a tiny golden whistle appeared above Willo's head.

Wind Whistler found a strong blade of grass and fastened the whistle to it before placing the whistle around the Chief Wisp's neck.

"Now blow it," she ordered.

Willo the Wisp put it to his lips. As he blew a little song came out:

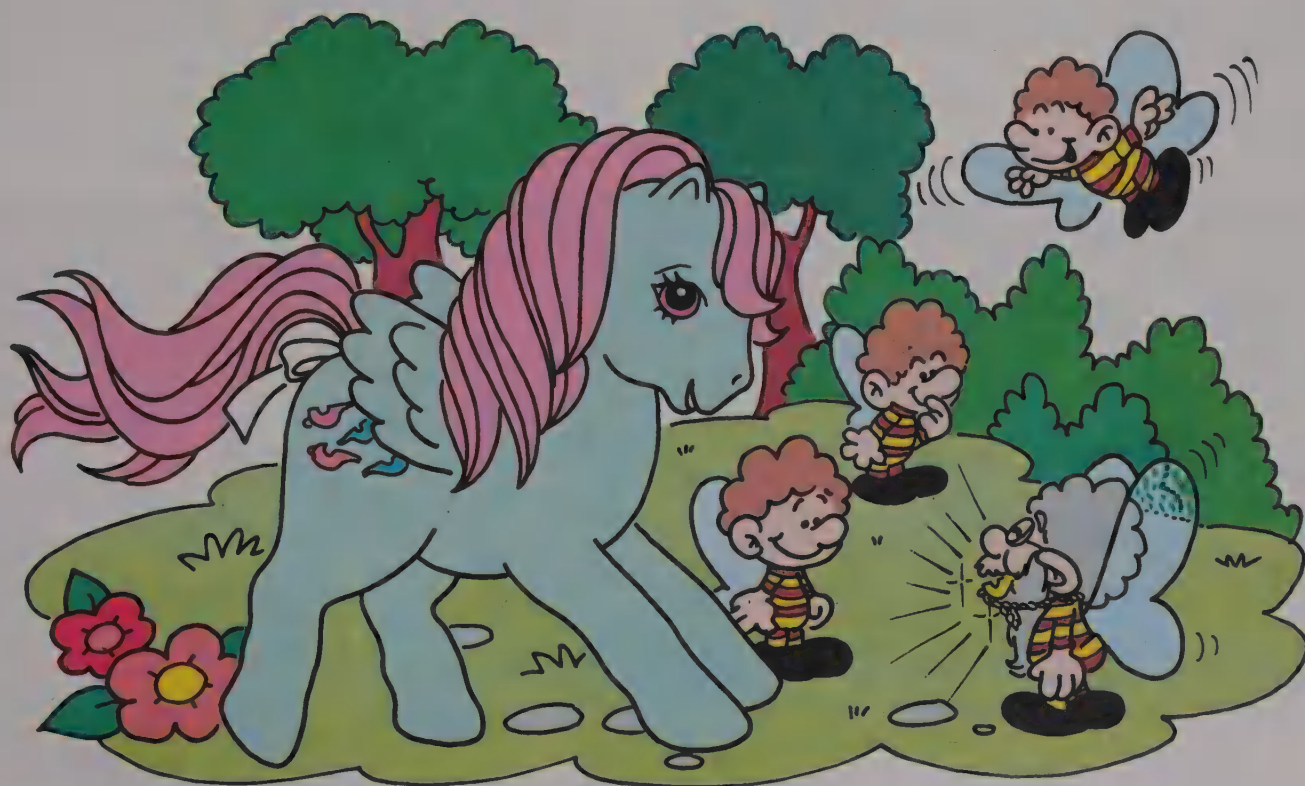
*"Wisps, wisps, hear my call,
It is meant for you all,
Come to Dream Meadows sweet,
To join in our yearly treat."*

And through the air they came, wisps large and small, from land, sea and air, all heading towards Dream Meadows.

"Hurry, or they'll get there before you," laughed Wind Whistler. "Take my magic whistle as a gift and it will send out a message to your wisps anytime, no matter where you are! Off you go and *please*, Willo, just once, hurry ... and don't be a wandering wisp!"

"We'll fly like the swallows," laughed Willo happily. "Thank you, Wind Whistler for my lovely whistle. I will use it to speak to all my wisps... and I'll send messages to you, too... on my talking, singing whistle!"

And he did... but that's another story!



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HONEYCOMB AND THE HOBGOBLIN



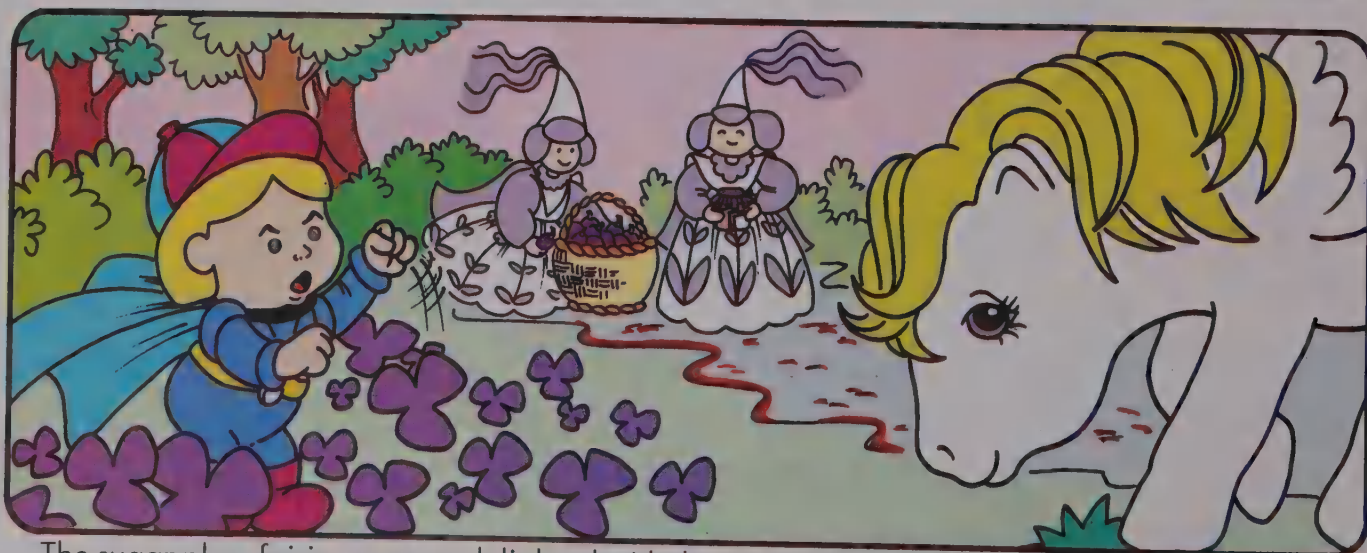
Honeycomb had been out all day delivering jars of honey, gifts from Majesty, to all their friends.



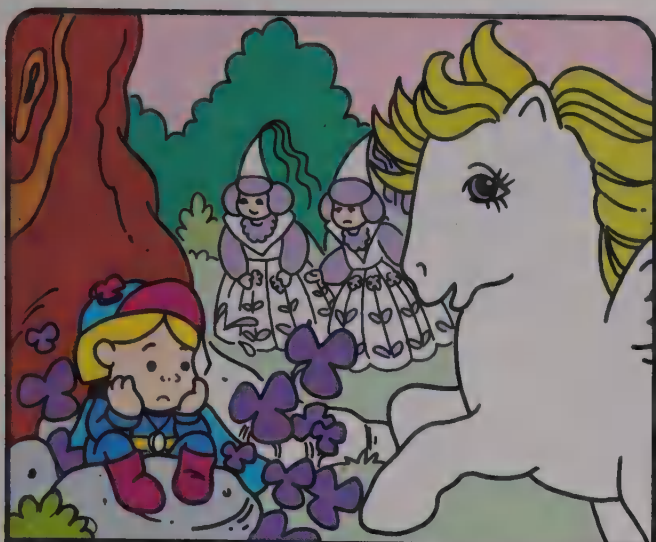
Sammy Squirrel had a real sweet tooth and he put a little honey on the nuts he had stored away in the autumn.



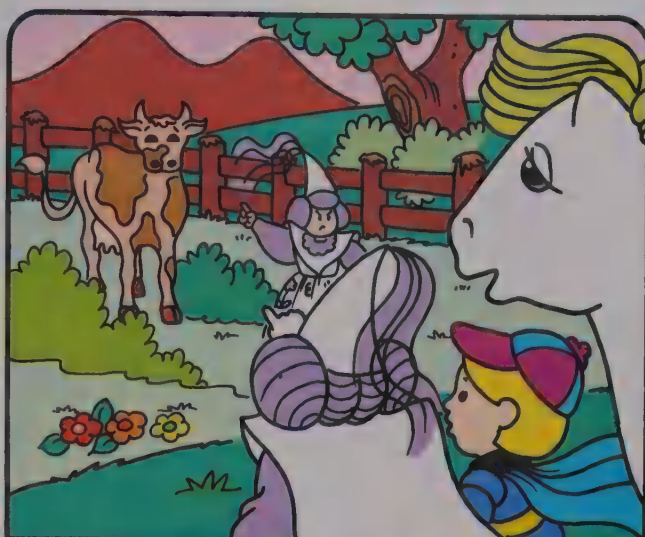
Dame Nature and Cotton Candy put a jar of honey in the medicine chest to use for sore throats.



The sugar plum fairies were so delighted with their jars of honey that they filled Honeycomb's baskets with big juicy sugar plums. "No one ever gives *me* honey or sugar plums... and I live in the best clover patch!" cried a cross voice.



It was Dob the hobgoblin. "You don't deserve any honey. You are always playing tricks!" said Honeycomb sternly.



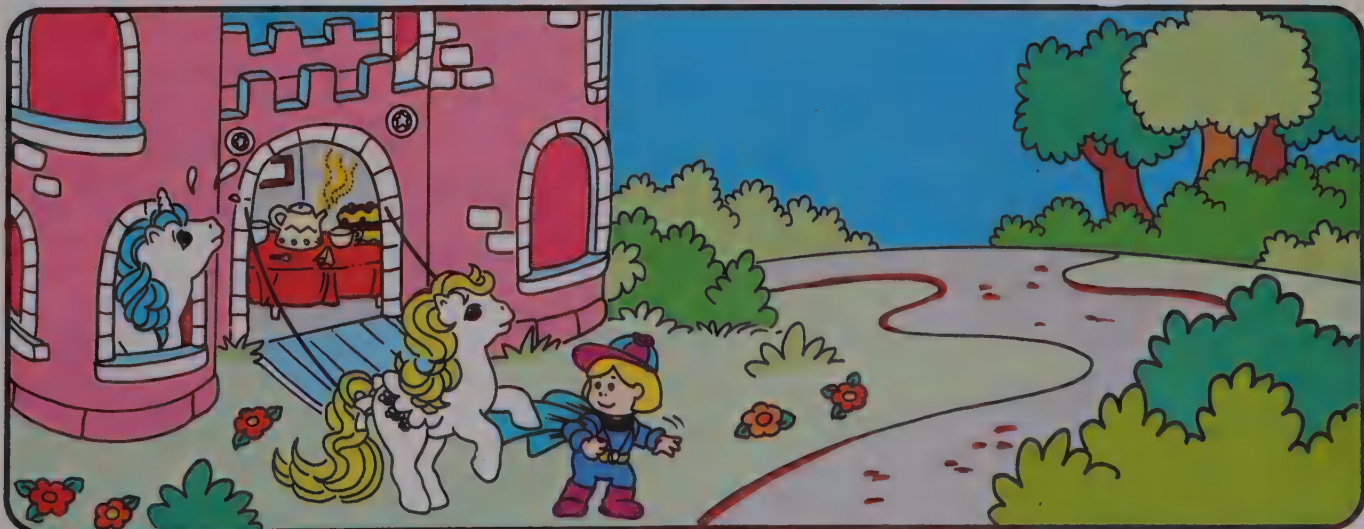
"You turned Buttercup's milk sour," scolded the fairies. "She mooed and frightened me," cried Dob.



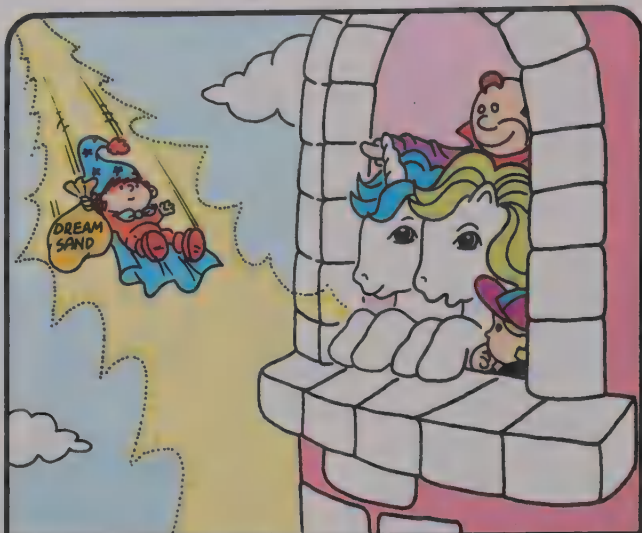
"Why do you creep about at night playing tricks?" asked the pony. "I sleep all day, and at night I'm by myself," said Dob.



"What you need is a job to keep you out of mischief. We'll go and see Majesty," cried Honeycomb. "She'll help!"



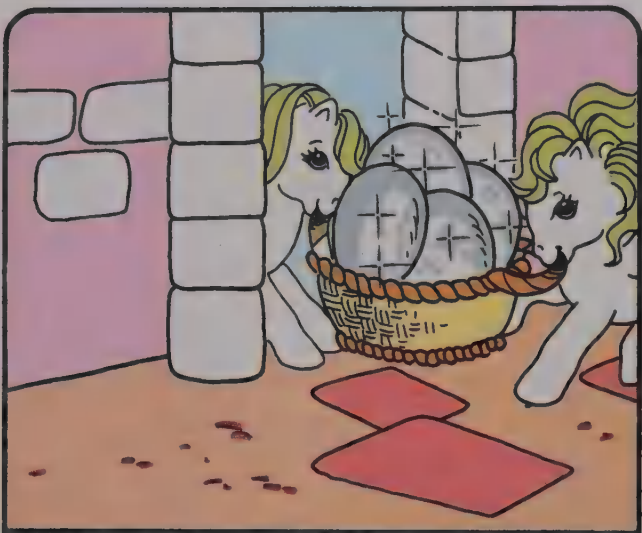
Majesty was taking tea with her old friend the Man in the Moon. "I'll have to be getting back soon," he said. "Oh, dreams and dust, look, Majesty, now you can see exactly what I mean! The Dark Imps keep hiding my stars! What can I do about it?!"



"You need someone to sweep the sky each night," said Majesty. "How about letting Dob do it? The Sandman's too busy!"



"Oh, yes, please, I'd love to help," begged Dob. "It is just the job for me. I'll start tonight! I'll work hard, I promise."



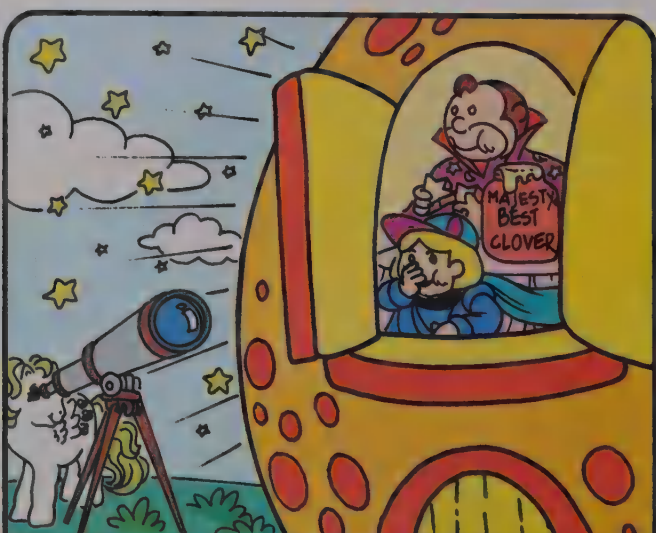
"You'll need a moon balloon too," Honeycomb said. "Surprise will lend you one. I'll get it now!"



Dob the hobgoblin climbed in and away went the balloon, high in the sky. "Sweep all the dark dust away," called Honeycomb.



As Honeycomb and Majesty watched, the stars began to appear again... Dob even swept the naughty Dark Imps away!



And next morning the Man in the Moon was so pleased he invited Dob to breakfast... star crispies covered with honey!



TWILIGHT AND THE STAR STEALER



One morning as Majesty looked out of Dream Castle she saw Twilight running towards her in the special mist which the shy little pony used to hide her daylight appearances from prying eyes.

"Heavy hooves, Majesty," she cried. "Something terrible has happened. The Star Stealer is up to his nasty tricks again. The Man in the Moon and the Sandman and I have been worried that some of the stars have been disappearing... and when I passed by Stardust Cottage, I spied a new tree in the Star Stealer's garden, and I heard him chuckling among the star leaves!"

"Shooting stars, you must make him give them back," exclaimed Spike who had been listening. "If he went on and on... soon there would be no stars in the sky... that would never do!"

"I'm afraid I can't make the Star Stealer give back the stars... unless he does it himself," sighed Majesty. Then suddenly she started to chuckle.

"But I've just thought of a way to do that," she said, "Twilight... go and find Moondancer and as many of the other little ponies you can and meet me at Stardust Cottage!"

Twilight went off to find the ponies and Majesty and Spike went to find the Star Stealer while Majesty told Spike all about her plan to get the stars back.

When they arrived, Spike and the ponies stood under the tree and started to talk.

"That Star Stealer is a horrid old goblin," Spike said loudly. "He's the most horrid goblin I know!"

"He is certainly the ugliest with his long hooked nose and grey straggly beard," added Moondancer.





"I'm sure he has no friends. He has such a bad temper!" cried Twilight.

Suddenly there was a movement above their heads, and a very cross face appeared.

"How dare you be so rude?" snorted the goblin.

"Hasn't he got a horrid voice?" said Cotton Candy with a grin. "It would turn milk sour... or wither flowers!"

"You bad, bad pony," called the Star Stealer crossly. And in a real temper he started to throw down the stars from the trees in an attempt to hit the ponies with them!

But instead, Majesty, Skyflier, Medley and Flutterbye suddenly appeared each holding the corner of a sky blanket, and as the Star Stealer threw down the stars they caught them in the blanket.

The Star Stealer was so cross with the little ponies that he didn't stop until there was not one single star left on the tree.

"Thank you so much," laughed Medley as she and Skyflier tied a knot in the blanket. "We'll take these back to the Man in the Moon and help him to hang them behind the curtain ready for the night sky to appear! And don't try and steal any more stars. The star guards will be on patrol every night in future and their comet spears are very sharp!"

"You tricked me!" wept the goblin in rage.

"No, we just found the right way to make you give back the stars," said Majesty sternly. "But, remember, if you try to be good in future, and have a kind heart, you will start to have a kinder face too... and a softer voice if you don't shout so much! Why, perhaps you might even get a new name... how about Shiny-Star. That's much prettier!"

I wonder if the Star Stealer did try and become a kinder goblin. I'm not sure... but there are lots of stars in the sky now... and perhaps somewhere in Pony Land there is a kind old goblin called Shiny-Star!

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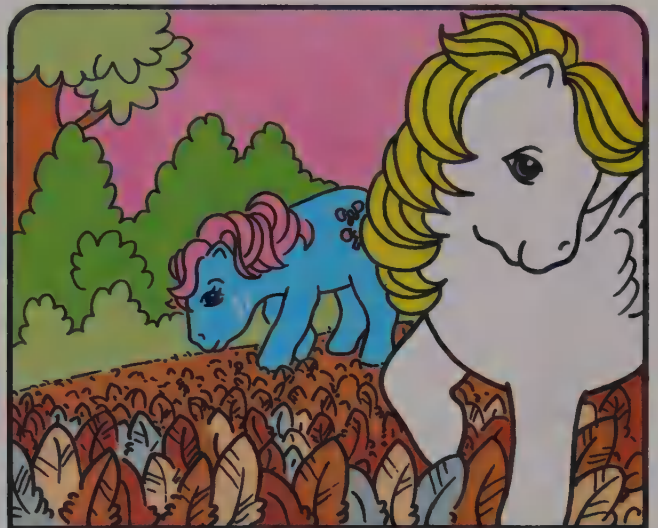
THE WONDERFUL WHIZZ



One day Majesty called out to Honeycomb and Bow Tie from the turrets of Dream Castle. "I need you for an errand!"



"Will you take this jar of honey to my old friend the Wonderful Whizz?" she said. "He's very fond of honey."



"Whizz is a wonderful wizard, isn't he?" said Bow Tie to Honeycomb. "Yes, he makes wonderful spells," agreed her pony friend!



But, when they arrived at Whizz's magical cave they found the wonderful wizard looking very upset. "Wands and spells," he was muttering. "Another dissatisfied customer! I really can't understand it! None of my spells seem to go right now!"



"He calls himself a wizard...but look...a coat for me instead of a cote for my hens," grumbled the pixie.



"I can't understand it...I used my best book of spells," declared Whizz. "It always worked before!"



"Just look into yesterday's magic mirror," sighed Whizz. "I changed a prince into a frog...and all he wanted was to be brave! Pixie Pip wanted some gold coins to buy Dame Dimple a gift...I made a bag of barley sugars!"



"The frog looks very brave," said Bow Tie gently, "and Dame Dimple loves barley sugar, so the spells were nearly right!"



"We've brought you some honey. We'll make you a honey sandwich and then you'll feel better," said Honeycomb.



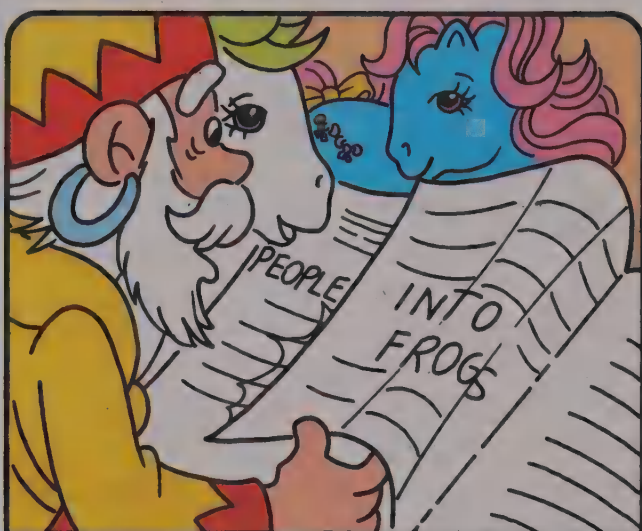
"I'm too busy to eat a sandwich," said Whizz. "I'll just keep dipping my finger in the jar as I try to get the spells right."



"You're getting your spell book all sticky," cried Honeycomb. Then both ponies started to laugh.



"That's why you're getting your spells wrong," said Honeycomb. "Your pages are sticking together..."



"...you are using two different spells...look... PEOPLE INTO FROGS...you've turned over two pages at once!"



Bow Tie made bookmarks to help to separate the spells and Whizz set to work again to correct his mistakes!



Suddenly the frog became a brave prince and the pixie found himself carrying a hen-cote home! Whizz was wonderful again!



THE WITCH'S GOLDEN APPLE



Wanda the witch who lived in the Weird Wood was always trying to think up new ways of upsetting the little ponies because she had never yet succeeded in capturing any of them.

One day as the little ponies were enjoying one of Majesty's delicious lunches, Wanda appeared on her broomstick.

"What do you want, Wanda?" called Medley and Firefly as she flew past them. "We hope that you haven't come to cause trouble!"

"Trouble...me?" cried Wanda with a sly laugh. "Never... I've brought a present... a golden apple... for the best little pony of all!"

And down into the sweet meadow grass she threw a glittering apple, as golden as the sun.

Then away she flew.

"What a lovely apple... it's just like a jewel," said Sparkler. "I'd love to have it for my collection... if no one minds!"

"Happy hooves, of course you can have it," laughed Heart Throb. "Can't she?" she said to the others.

"Straw and hay, I don't know about that," said Medley. "Wanda said it was for the best little pony!"

"Yes, but who is the best little pony?" asked Applejack eyeing the golden apple eagerly. "I'm the best... at eating apples!"

"But I can turn the best treble treble double loops," cried Firefly. "And only Medley can make music with her tail... she's the best tail-waver!"

"That doesn't make her the best pony... I make the best gingerbread," said a familiar voice. "But Honeycomb is the best finder of honey!"

"I'm the best nurse... even if I do eat flowers," cried Cotton Candy.





"But I'm the best dancer," declared Gypsy. "And Lemon Drop can jump her fences better than any little pony that I know!"

One by one all the little ponies laid their claim to the wonderful golden apple and suddenly they were all arguing amongst themselves.

"Stop it, stop it," begged Majesty. "Can't you all see what is happening? Wanda threw down the apple on purpose so that you would all start to quarrel. She would like nothing better to see you all enemies and not friends!"

"Fences and jumps, Majesty, you're quite right," said Lemon Drop, looking rather ashamed of herself. "I don't want the apple. I'd rather have my pony friends!"

All the other little ponies stopped shouting at each other and nodded their heads in agreement.

"You have the apple, Majesty," said Medley. "You are the best little pony."

"I will take the apple," Majesty agreed. "But we will all share it!"

She threw the apple in the air crying:

"Apple of gold which looks so sweet,
Multiply and turn good to eat.
Turn into an apple tree,
With juicy apples, for all to see!"

And, as the apple fell to earth, it turned into an ordinary apple tree... but filled with lovely juicy yellow apples... enough for every little pony in Pony Land!

When Wanda flew back to see if her plan had worked she saw all the little ponies munching away happily... each with a golden apple!

She was so cross she fell off her broomstick into the Waterfall and got a soaking! How all the little ponies laughed!

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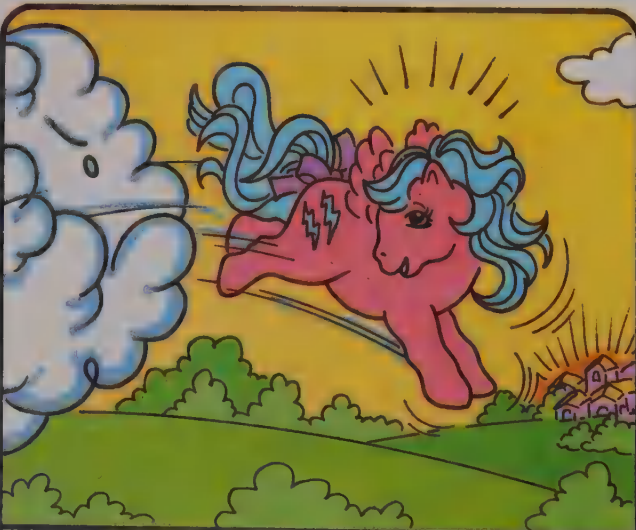
A FRIGHT FOR FIREFLY



Cherries Jubilee and Majesty were watching Firefly practising her treble double loop!



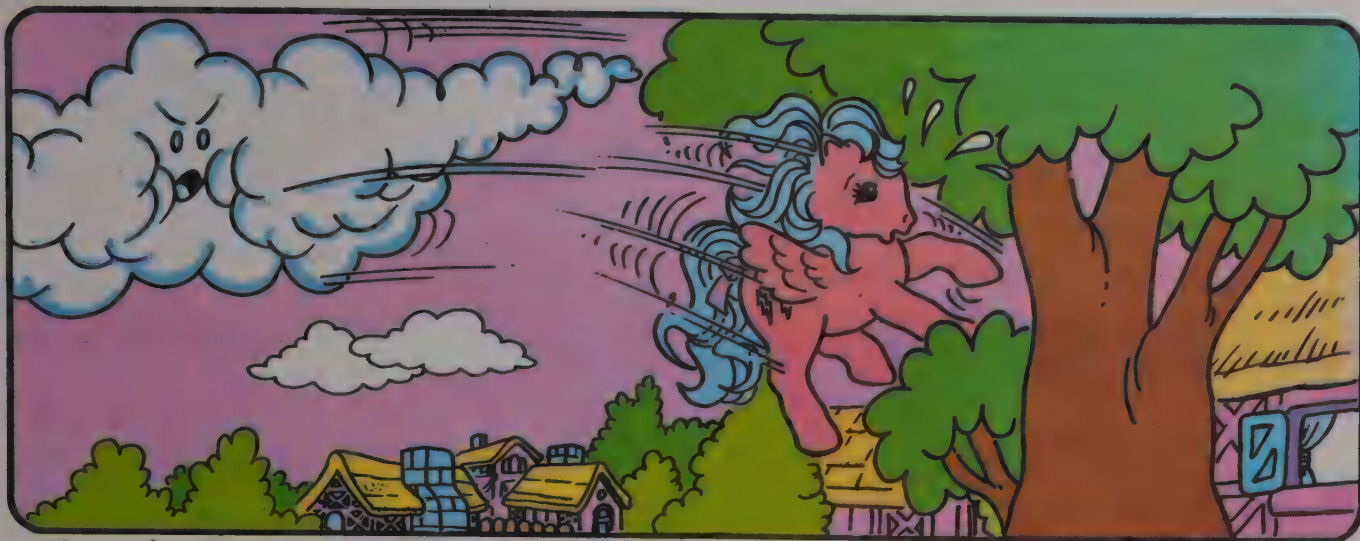
"Pony feathers, now she has challenged the North wind to a race," said Cherries Jubilee. "No one has ever done that before! They are flying over the Magic Mountains... Oh, Firefly is brave!" "Or foolish," said Majesty softly to herself.



"I'm winning, I'm winning!" cried Firefly, looking back at the North Wind. "You can't catch me!"



"You silly little pony, no one can outrace me," howled the North Wind. Before Firefly could stop, the North Wind blew.



"Pony feathers, you're blowing me away," cried Firefly. "Please stop, I don't want to race anymore. I want to go home!" "Find your own way home," cried the North Wind. "I've got some work to do," and away he went.



"I must get down from this tree. Pony feathers, I've hurt my wing. I'll have to jump!" said Firefly.



Closing her eyes Firefly jumped down... and landed in the middle of a shining pool. "My wing's mended!" she cried.



"My long race has made me hungry," said Firefly. "Happy hooves, a cake... it looks delicious. I'll eat it! Oh, I feel funny!"



"Oh foolish Firefly, now your troubles will really begin," sighed Majesty. "You've eaten a magic Contrary Cake!"



"Majesty, we must help Firefly to get back home," said Tootsie. "I will send you to Contrary Town, but it will be difficult!"



So Majesty twirled her magic horn. "To Contrary Town both shall go, but Firefly may be your foe!"



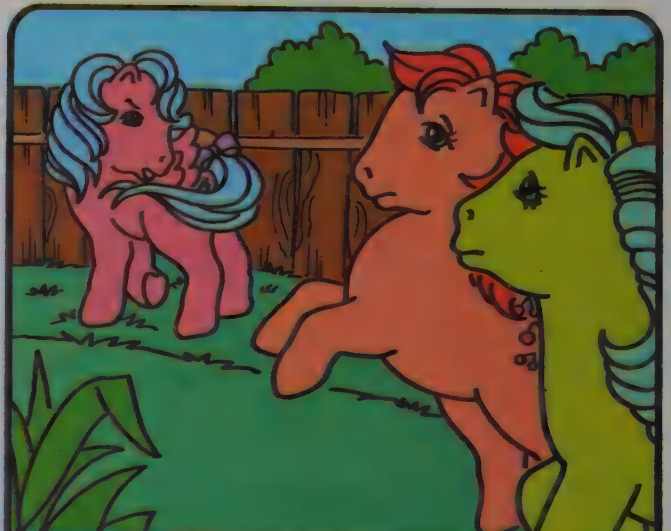
In a trice Tootsie and Cherries Jubilee found themselves in Contrary Town. "How can Firefly be our foe?" asked Tootsie.



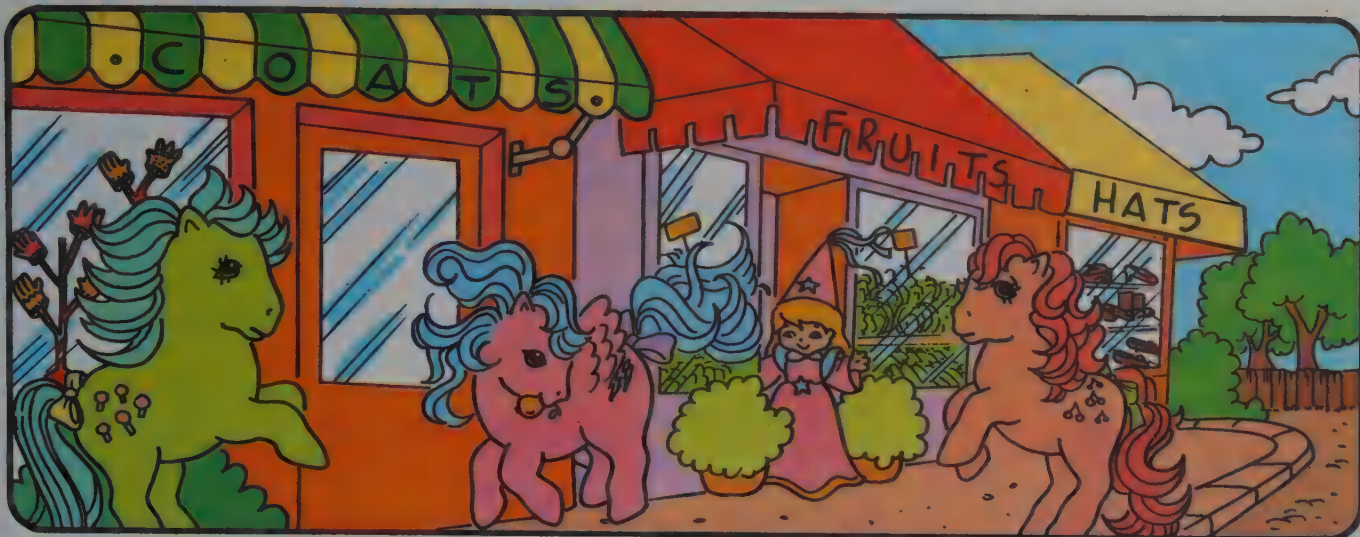
"Now is your chance to find out," said Cherries Jubilee. "There she is... Firefly, it's us, your friends!"



"Wirefly, we are glad to see you," cried Tootsie. "Here, have a lollipop!" "I don't like lollipops... or you!" she said.



"But it's us, Cherries Jubilee and Tootsie," the ponies said. "I've never seen you before," cried Firefly crossly.



Tootsie began to cry. "What's happened to Firefly?" she sobbed. "Look, she asked for an apple and the shopkeeper has given her a pear! Why doesn't she like us anymore? The North Wind must have put a spell on her. Heavy hooves, what can we do?"



"I could use my magic clover to wish us home," said Tootsie. "But we need to break the contrary spell."



"You clever little Tootsie," cried Cherries Jubilee in delight. "You've found the answer!" "Have I?" said Tootsie, puzzled.



"Firefly, shall we stay here forever?" asked Cherries Jubilee. "I don't want to stay! I want to go home," replied Firefly.



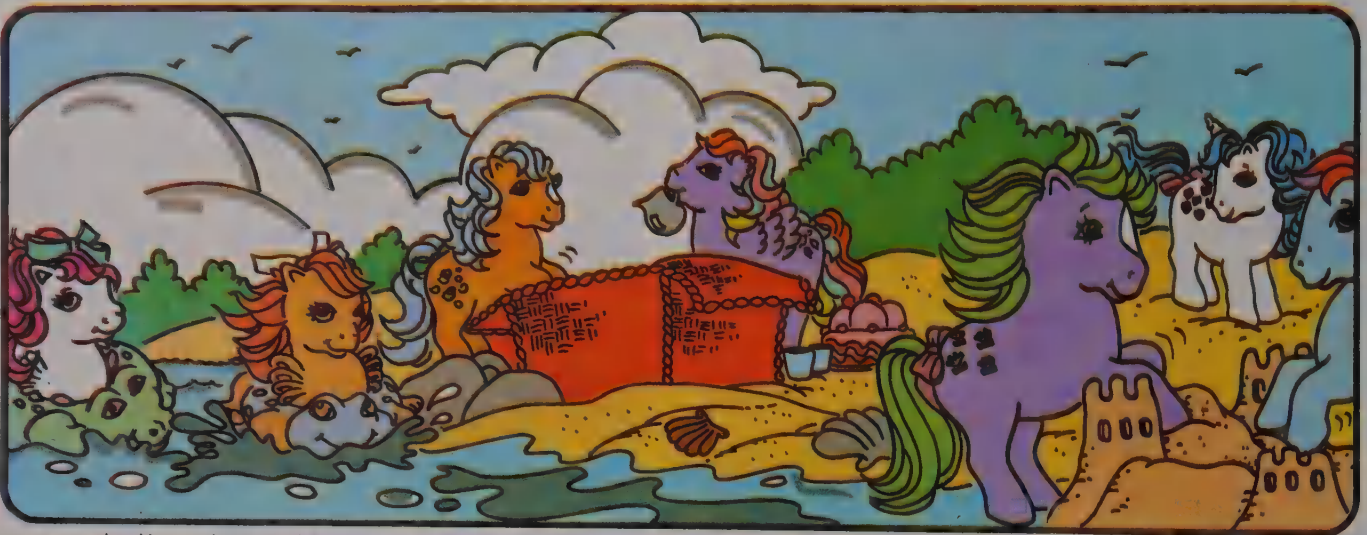
"So you shall, you contrary pony!" said Cherries Jubilee. "The spell is broken, but don't ever race the North Wind again!"

My Little Pony

TICKLE AND THE SAND GOBLINS



It was a lovely sunny day. Some of the little ponies decided to go down to the beach for a picnic.



Seashell and Sparkler were making a model of Dream Castle. "It might be fun to have a sea view for a change," laughed Majesty. "But you might get very wet when the tide comes in," replied Sparkler.



Suddenly up ran three bad sand goblins who lived in the sand dunes. "Let's knock down the castle!" they laughed.



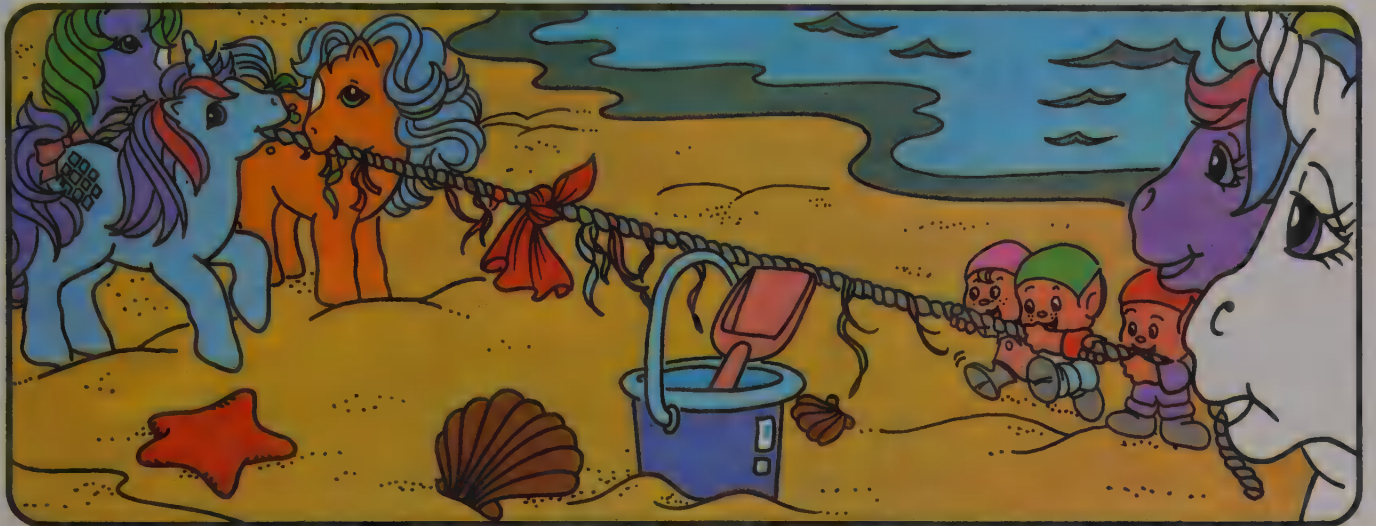
"Stop that at once!" said Majesty crossly. "Shan't!" replied the goblins. "This is our beach... go away!"



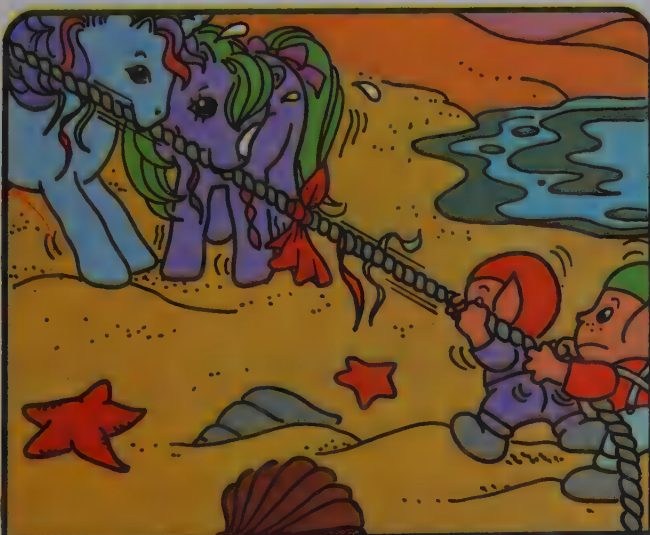
"Oh, look at all this lovely food," Snip the sand goblin said. "Come on, Snap, have a nut cake!"



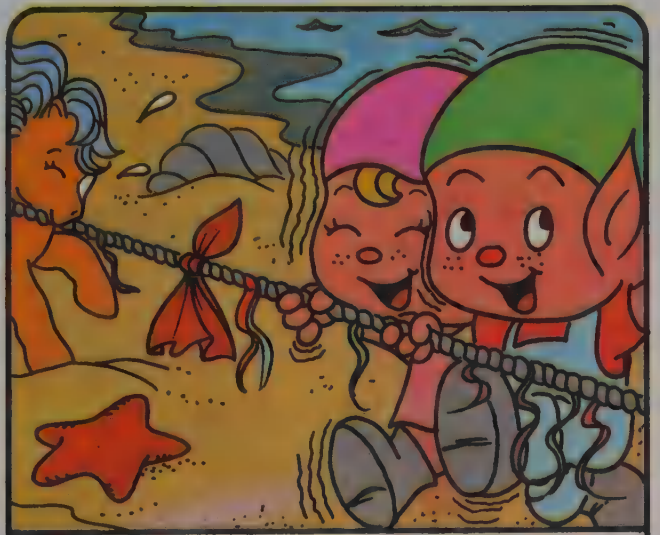
"Heavy hooves, now Slap is throwing pebbles at the baby ponies," cried Majesty. "It's too bad. Go away!"



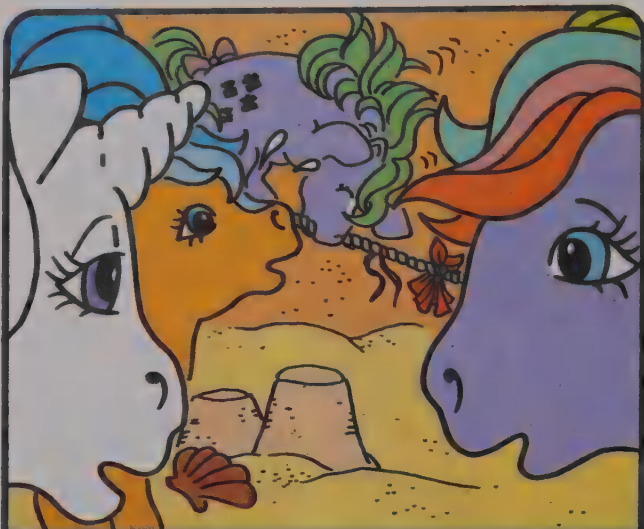
"Those horrid goblins are spoiling our picnic," said Bubbles. "Majesty, what can we do?" "We'll challenge them to a tug of seaweed and the winners will have the beach to themselves," suggested Majesty. "We'll win easily," jeered the goblins.



"Are you ready?" called Majesty. "The first to drop the rope must leave the beach. One... two... three... pull!"



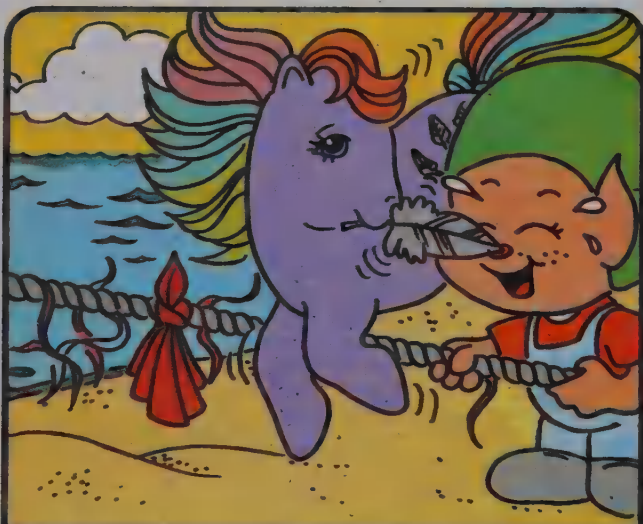
"The little ponies are winning... do something!" cried Snip to Snap. "We'll grow and grow," grinned Snap.



"They've made themselves huge... they'll win by cheating," groaned Bubbles. "Heavy hooves, it isn't fair, Tickle!"



"No they won't... we can play tricks, too," cried Tickle. She flew over to the sand goblins with a feather!



"Stop tickling... oh... Snip... I can't hold on much longer," giggled Snap. "Nor me," groaned Slap.



The bad goblins were laughing so much that when the ponies gave a big tug, the goblins let go and fell over.



"We've won... we've won! Now go away and let us enjoy our picnic," cried the little ponies! "At once!" ordered Majesty.



For a moment the goblins hesitated, but as Tickle held up her feather, they ran off to the dunes. "Time for tea!" said Tickle.



COTTON CANDY'S BUSY DAY



One morning Cotton Candy awoke bright and early. She sniffed the air and smiled. "I really do believe that summer is almost here at last," she said. "It's given me quite an appetite. I'll go down to the meadows and find a little sweet grass and perhaps a flower or two for breakfast."

And off she set, taking with her her little nurse's bag, because Cotton Candy was always prepared in case any of her friends needed help.

As she was passing by the Silver Stream she saw her friend Croaker the frog jumping up and down on a waterlily pad.

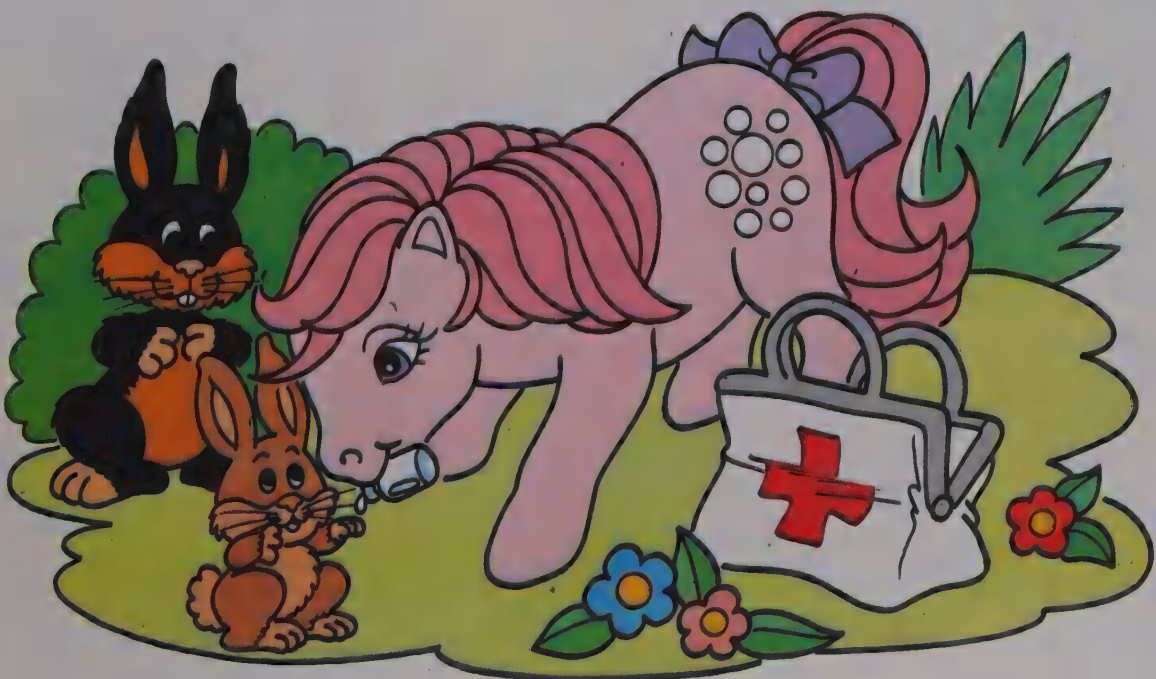
"Hello, Croaker," called Cotton Candy. "Isn't it a lovely day?"

Croaker pointed a flipper to his throat. "I've got a sore throat," he croaked very softly. "I was the soloist in the concert last night to welcome the baby swallows. I got so many encores that my voice is really sore now."

"Take a sip of my honey cordial," suggested Cotton Candy. "That will soon make it better!" and it did! Cotton Candy could still hear Croaker singing away as she neared the hollow oak where the rabbit family lived.

Suddenly Mother Rabbit popped her head out of a hole. "My young Rab has hurt his paw, Cotton Candy!" she cried. "Will you look at it?"

"Of course," replied the little pony. "Yes, it does look sore. I'll put some of my special herb salve ointment on it to take the pain away!"





"Carrots and cabbages, that's much better. Thank you, Cotton Candy," said Rab as he bounded away happily to play with his friends.

Cotton Candy went on her way, stopping now and then to nibble a little sweet new grass or just one or two flower petals.

But as she galloped through the orchard she saw Applejack looking very unhappy. "Have you been eating unripe apples again?" she scolded.

Applejack nodded sadly. "My tummy hurts," she groaned.

"Here, take this special tummyache medicine," said Cotton Candy, fishing in her bag and bringing out a piece of sugar with her *best* herbal linctus on it. "And don't have anything to eat for the rest of the day."

"Heavy hooves, I won't eat another apple!" cried Applejack, as she sucked away at the sugar lump.

But Cotton Candy just laughed. She'd heard Applejack say all that before!

As Cotton Candy passed by the Show Stable she saw Lemon Drop teaching Baby Lickety-Split and Baby Lofty to jump over a gate shaped like a big bowl of summer flowers.

"Over you go...look ahead... no...heavy hooves...don't look down!" called Lemon Drop in despair.

But that's exactly what the baby ponies did! They gave shrieks of fright and landed over the flower jump...right in the middle of a big patch of nettles.

"Heavy hooves, I've been stung by a big bee!" cried Baby Lickety-Split.

"No, it's these horrid plants...they sting you!" sobbed poor Baby Lofty.

"You wouldn't have landed in the nettles if you had followed my orders," sighed Lemon Drop crossly, because she was rather upset at what had happened to the baby ponies.

"Here, rub yourselves with these leaves," said Cotton Candy, plucking several dock leaves which were growing nearby. "They will soon take the pain away!"

"We must remember that!" cried Lemon Drop and the baby ponies. "Pony feathers, here comes Magic Star."

"Majesty sent me to tell you all that it is time for lunch," said Magic Star. "Come along, everyone is waiting for you. What's wrong, Cotton Candy?"

"I think that I'll have to miss lunch today... my medicine bag is empty. I will have to start to refill it again," explained Cotton Candy. "After all, I *am* the Pony Land nurse," she added proudly.

"And a very good one," said Magic Star. "But you need not miss your lunch. You must be very hungry after such a busy morning."

And Magic Star twirled around and the star wand on her rump shimmered and glimmered as the little pony made a secret wish.

"Sugar and salve, my bag's full again," cried Cotton Candy in delight. "Thank you, Magic Star!"

"It's us who should thank *you*... you're a really wonderful nurse," said Magic Star, and the others all nodded their heads.

Cotton Candy is a kind and clever little pony nurse, isn't she?

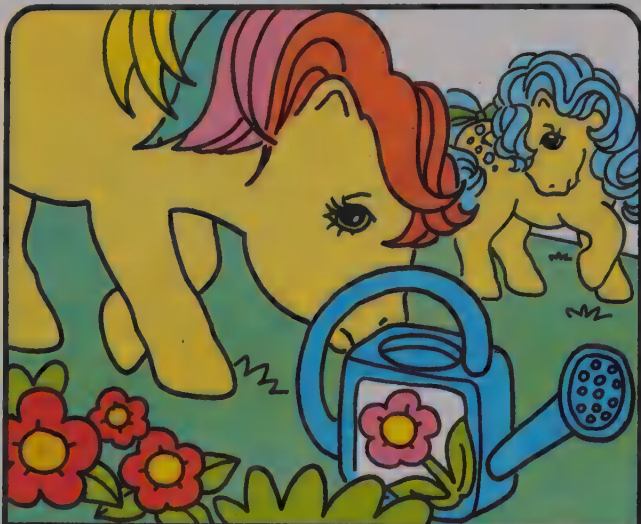


My Little Pony[®]

MEDLEY AND THE PIPING PIXIE



The little ponies were enjoying themselves splashing about in the Waterfall. Bubbles laughed happily.



"Pony feathers; you've made the water all muddy, Bubbles," scolded Trickles. "I need clean water for Posey's flowers!"



"Listen... I can hear music! Someone's coming!" cried Sprinkles. "It's a pixie playing a pipe!"



Back in Dream Castle Majesty was watching in her magic mirror. "It's the Piping Pixie!" she said to Spike.



"Why is he here?" asked Spike. "To entice my ponies to Grim Castle" Majesty replied. "I must warn them."



Majesty ran outside. Spike followed her. "What are you going to do, Majesty?" he asked anxiously.



Majesty sang. "Little ponies, all beware... ponies, do take care! Heed not the merry notes, see how the pixie gloats."



But the summer breeze carried her words away! However, Medley and Firefly saw what was happening.



"Fly down and stuff your ears with that sheep's wool on the hedge," said Medley. "We mustn't hear the music!"



Medley's warning came too late! Her ears full of wool, she watched as poor Firefly joined the rest of the dancing ponies as they climbed the steep hill towards Grim Castle. "I must think of something quickly," she cried, "or it will be too late!"



Suddenly Medley noticed a really big cloud floating towards her. It was a pretty blue... a daydream cloud!



"Princess Aquamarine has been day dreaming," she cried with joy. "A big cloud is just what I need now!"



The pixie piper looked very pleased. He had brought four new servants for his master who would give him a large piece of gold. But suddenly, there came a terrible noise like thunder! It drowned the sound of the pixie pipe.



Medley drummed harder and harder and the ponies ran faster and faster back to Pony Land.



"The pixie piper won't trouble us again," laughed Medley. "Look, the giant is keeping him far too busy!"

My Little Pony.

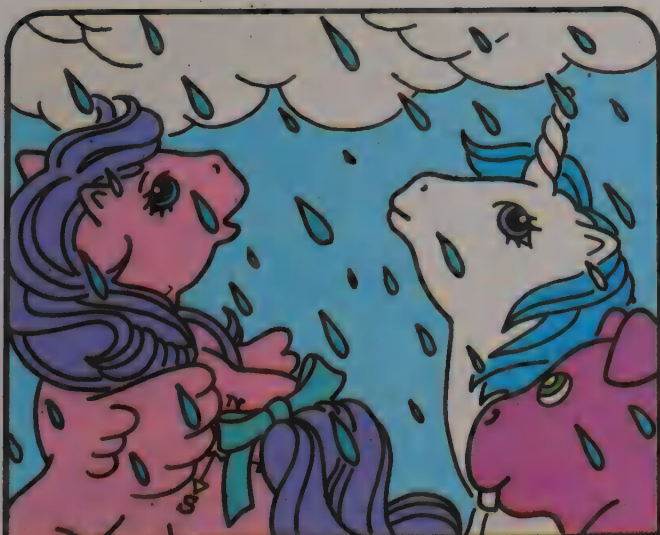
THE SUMMER SUNBEAM SPRITES



"Heavy hooves, it's raining again!" cried Baby Tiddly Winks. "Will it ever stop?" "We can't go out again," said the babies.



At the Show Stable Lemon Drop was feeling just as cross. "We'll never be able to hold the Summer Show!" she snorted. "Just look at the course... it's all waterlogged!" "My flowers have all been battered down with the rain," sighed Posey.



"Why doesn't the sun shine?" asked Spike. "It *is* summer!" "Because the Sunbeam Sprites haven't arrived," Majesty said.



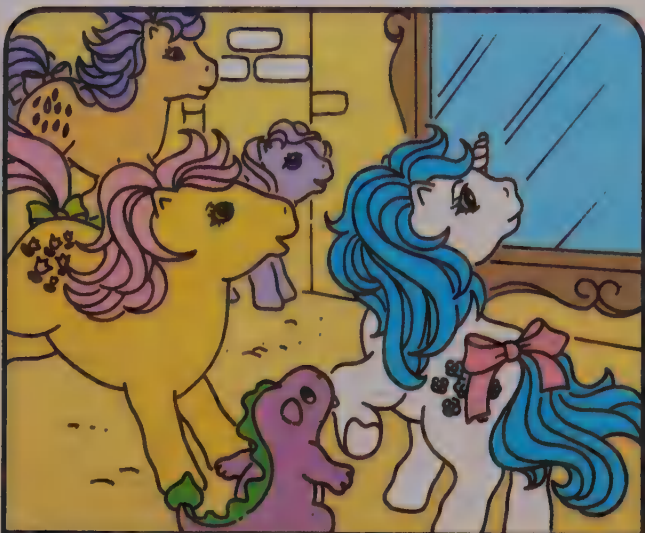
"They should have arrived by now," Majesty continued. "Unless they do, Summer can never begin!"



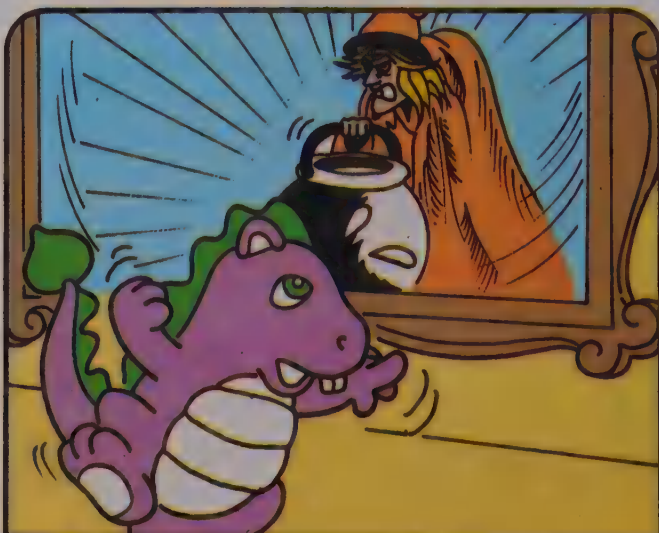
"Something must have happened," said Majesty. "North Star, please go and find them. They should have left Spring!"



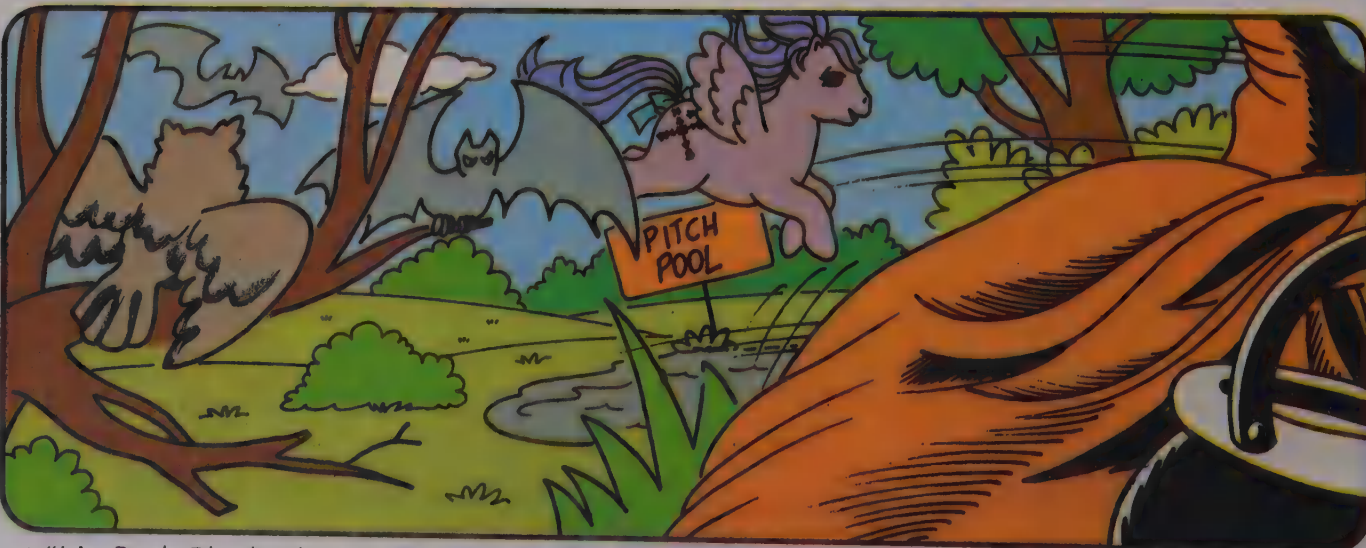
"Start first near Spring Bower. We will watch you through our magic mirror... but take care!"



Away went North Star while Majesty and the others returned to Dream Castle. "Gather round," said Majesty.



"There's North Star now," cried Spike. "Fire and Flames, she's reached the... oh, who's that, Majesty?"



"It's Pitch-Black, the Murky Water Witch," said Majesty. "She lives on the banks of the Black Murky Pool. She hates sunshine... she captures it and hides it away in the depths of the pool!" Everyone gasped in horror...



Meanwhile, North Star had seen something bright at the bottom of the dark pool. She flew down to take a look! "Heavy hooves the sprites must be trapped!" said North Star to herself.



As she looked, North Star heard Majesty's voice. "Free the sprites before the witch returns from the River of Blackness!"



"How can I do that?" asked North Star in dismay. "Seek the help of Quaffa the Very Thirsty Frog," called a blackbird.



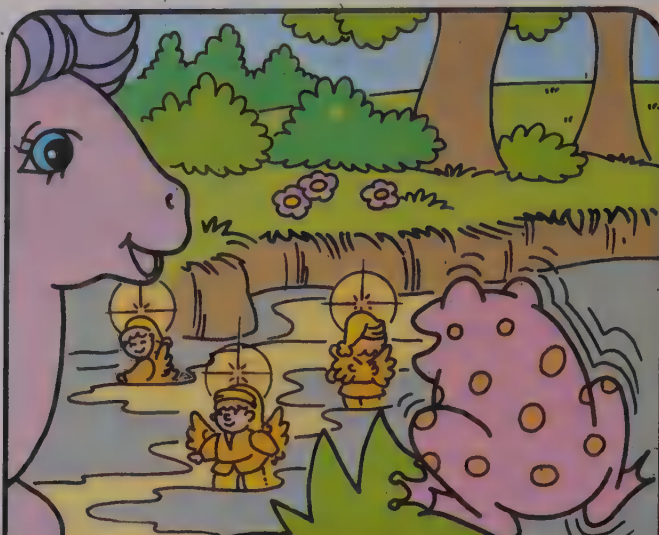
North Star looked around. There were lots of frogs! Which one was Quaffa? They all looked alike!



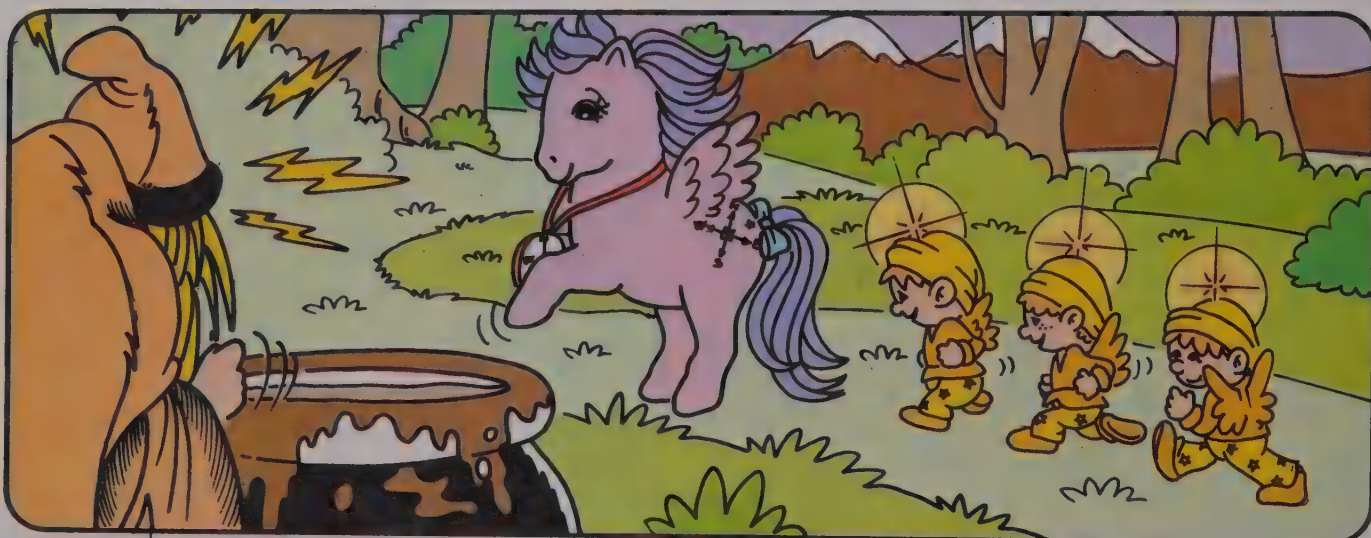
Then suddenly she saw a *tiny* pink frog with orange spots. "I'm Quaffa," said the frog. "How can I help?"



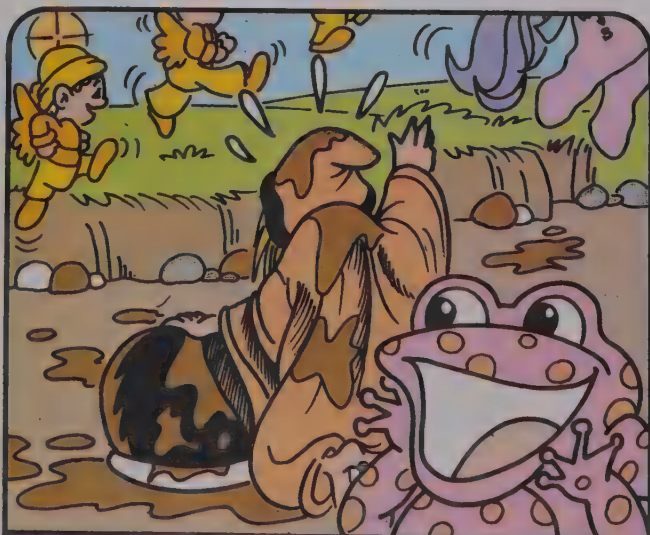
"I need to empty the black pool to free the sprites," said North Star. "Oh, is that all?" laughed the frog.



North Star watched in amazement as the pool emptied and Quaffa grew fatter and fatter. "Don't burst," she begged!



"Hurry, the witch is returning," cried Quaffa, who was beginning to grow smaller already. "Set course for Pony Land, North Star... the quickest way you can. Sprites... be ready to follow her, I'll deal with Pitch-Black!"



"Hurray, Quaffa has tripped up the witch and she has fallen into her own pool," laughed North Star. "Serves her right!"



So Summer came at last... thanks to North Star, Quaffa, and of course the Summer Sunbeam sprites!



A SHOCK FOR SPIKE



"Has anyone seen Spike?" asked Majesty, leaning out of the window of Dream Castle and calling to some of the little ponies who were playing in the meadows below. "He keeps disappearing each day and looks very shy and coy when I ask him where he has been... I do hope that he's not getting into mischief!"

Lickety-Split and Gusty looked at each other and giggled.

"I think you'll find Spike down on the sands," laughed Cotton Candy. "Ever since the water sprites swam over to spend their holiday by the sea, Spike has been down every day. He likes to talk to them... especially Rilla!"

"Rilla... pony feathers, yes, I remember... she's the prettiest of all the water sprites," chuckled Majesty.

"Yes... Spike certainly thinks so," giggled Peachy and Posey.

"I see," chuckled Majesty. "So Spike has found himself a new little friend. But I hope he remembers to be sensible. Water sprites live deep in the water and it's a long time since I sprinkled Spike with foam dust so that he could swim in the sea. I do hope he remembers that only sea dragons like old Drago can swim without help. Perhaps I had better go down and remind him!" And off she set.

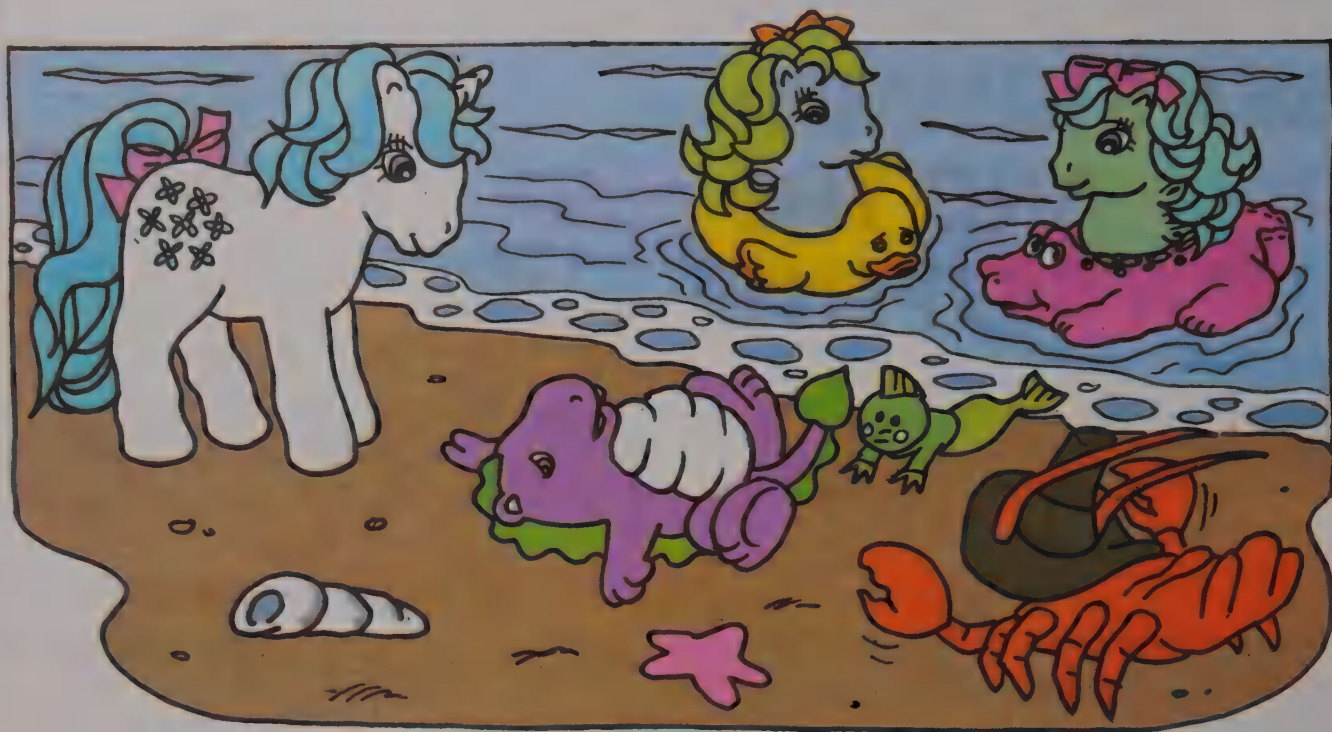
Spike was enjoying himself so much with the water sprites that he completely forgot that he couldn't swim.

"Come on, Spike, we're playing Catch-Me-If-You-Can," called Rilla.

"Fire and flames... I don't know..." began Spike. But when Lobbie Lobster began to chase Rilla, the little dragon ran into the water and started after them!

"Go away, Rilla wants to play with me!" he said crossly to Lobbie.





"Off you go then," replied Lobbie kindly and went off to see his friend Clarence Crab.

"I've nearly caught you," laughed Spike, as Rilla, swam very close to him. "Oh, my feet have left the sea bed, I'm drowning... I can't swim!" The little water sprite swam over to him in alarm.

"Oh, Spike, I didn't realise that you couldn't swim," cried Rilla. "I'll try to hold you up until someone comes along... sad sprites, you are heavy!"

"Help... help..." shouted poor Spike.

Suddenly up swam Beachcomber and Tiny Bubbles. "What can we do?" Tiny Bubbles asked Beachcomber.

"Quickly, make lots of light bubbles and we will tie them onto Spike's scales so that they will act as water wings," said Beachcomber who was quite clever and often had bright ideas. "Quickly, Tiny Bubbles, poor Rilla is looking very tired!" So Tiny Bubbles swam around and made lots of transparent bubbles which the other water sprites tied to Spike's scale tail so that they kept him afloat when Rilla finally let go! Majesty just arrived in time to see Rilla, the sprites and the baby sea ponies helping Spike back to shore.

"Oh, thank you, thank you," cried poor Spike sinking down onto the sand. "I'll never go into the sea again..."

Then as he saw Rilla looking very sad, he added hastily, "Not unless Majesty sprinkles me with sea foam dust!"

"I think today I will just sprinkle Rilla with Dream Castle flakes so that she can come on land and stay to tea," laughed Majesty.

"What a lovely idea... Rilla, please come to tea," begged Spike.

"Oh, yes, please," cried the little water sprite. "I shall be the first sea creature to visit Dream Castle... what a great honour!"

SEA SHIMMER AND THE SEA SERPENT



One day Majesty sprinkled magic foam dust over Masquerade and Buttons. "Off you go!" she said.



The two little ponies had been invited to tea with King Neptune as a very special treat. Soon they were floating down into his wonderful undersea kingdom, meeting several old friends... including Connie Crab and Lobbie Lobster.



King Neptune was waiting to welcome them. "I do like my guests to be prompt," he cried. Masquerade and Buttons smiled.



"Now that you are here, I'll call the sea ponies in to tea," the king said, raising his shell horn.



The baby sea ponies knew that whenever they heard the shell horn, they had to return home *at once*... no matter how much fun they were having! "Sea and shells, we've got to go now," cried Sea Star. "See you tomorrow, Dolly. Come on, everyone!"



"I'm not going yet!" declared Sea Shimmer. "I'm playing hide and seek with Miranda!" The others looked at her.



"You're being very naughty," scolded Tiny Bubbles. "King Neptune will be very cross. We're having guests to tea."



King Neptune was cross. "Sea Shimmer is very impolite!" he cried. "My horn *must* be obeyed!"



Everyone sat down to tea, but Masquerade kept thinking about naughty Sea Shimmer. Soon she had an idea.



Later, when the baby ponies were playing 'Hunt the Shell' with Buttons, Masquerade whispered something into the king's ear. Neptune threw back his head and roared with laughter. "What a good idea!" he said "I will find what you need!"



Neptune sent his fish guards to bring up bales of shimmering silk from his treasure cave...



... and Masquerade made an ugly shell head which just looked like a sea serpent! "This will do the trick," she said.



A little later Sea Shimmer was chased home by a strange sea serpent... sobbing and frightened!



"I'll always come when I'm called in future," she promised "I never want to meet that serpent again!"



POSEY HELPS LUCY LOCKET



"Are we going down to the sands today?" asked the baby ponies.

"Not today," replied Majesty looking up at the bright summer sky. "Farmer Pipp has asked you all over to Pippin Farm for the day. There will be lots of things to do and, as it is in Nursery Rhyme Land, you will meet lots of old friends!"

"Perhaps we'll find Boy Blue asleep under a haystack again," giggled Baby Glory.

"I'm going to find my little speckledy hen and see if she will lay an egg especially for me," said Posey. "And I'll go and pick some scarlet poppies and blue cornflowers from among the ripe corn. We'll put them in a vase in the Show Stable. Lemon Drop will like that."

"I'm sure she'll be busy trying to jump the hedges, as usual," laughed Peachy. "There she goes, running ahead of everyone. Poor Brandy can't keep up with her. She's waiting for us. Go and join her, Twinkles. Tell her we won't be long!"

So Twinkles the cat ran off to catch up with Brandy while Majesty and the other ponies walked along more slowly towards Pippin Farm which lay on the edge of Pony Land in Nursery Rhyme Land.

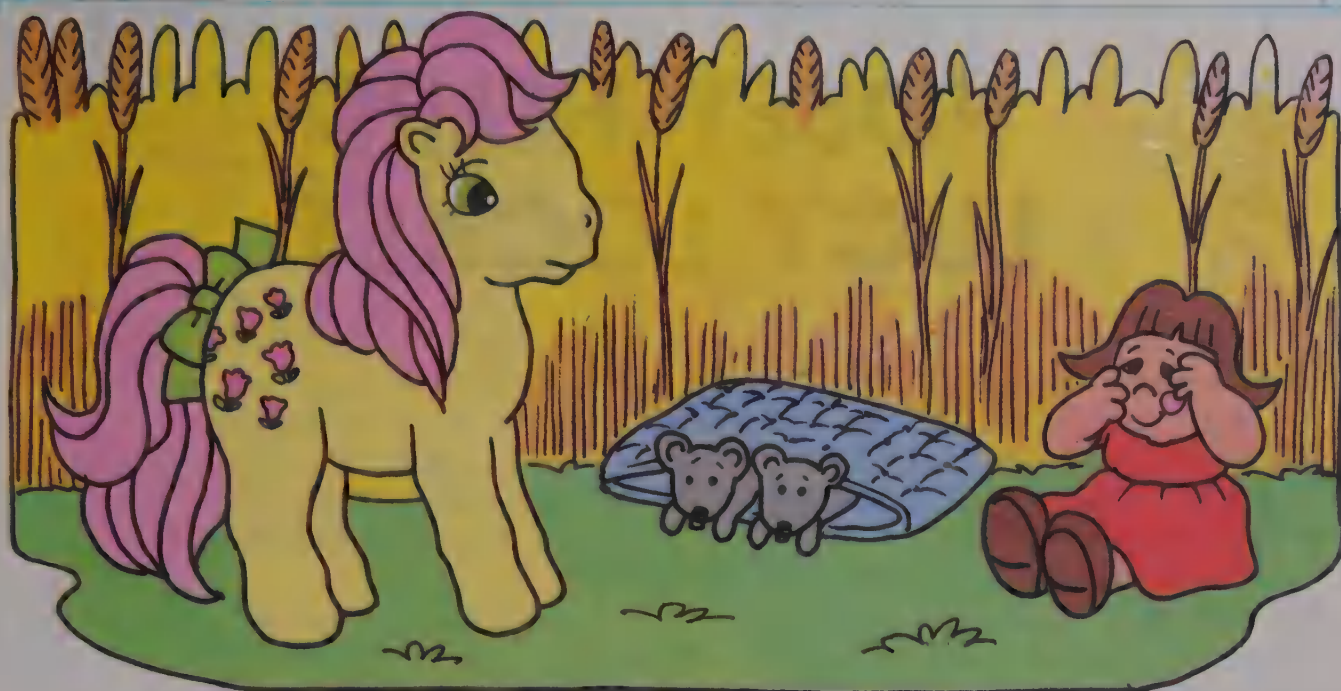
The farmer and his wife were waiting for them. "You can go anywhere you like," said Farmer Pipp. "Enjoy yourselves... but please remember to shut all the gates. I don't want any of my animals to stray and get lost!"

"We'll all be very careful!" promised Majesty. "Off you go, ponies! We'll all meet here for lunch under the shady apple tree over there!"

"I think I'll just stay here," said Applejack, eyeing the loaded tree.

"Pony feathers, no you won't," protested Majesty. "Off you go and give the farmer a hoof with the haymaking. It will give you a good appetite for lunch!"





"I don't need to work up an appetite for apples," grinned Applejack. "But haymaking is fun. Are you coming, Posey?"

"Yes, but I'm going to pick flowers," replied Posey.

"May I come with you?" asked Baby Cotton Candy eagerly.

"Only if you promise not to eat any," laughed Posey. "Oh, there's my little speckled hen. Hello, Speckles. Do you remember me?"

"Dear Posey, of course I do," clucked Speckles happily. "When Farmer Pipp told me that you were coming... I laid you this..."

"Oh, happy hooves, Speckles, what a lovely egg," praised Posey. "You are a kind little hen. I wish that I could do something in return for you!"

"Perhaps you can," clucked Speckles: "Lucy Locket and Kitty Fisher, two of the dolls who live in the shoe came for a can of milk this morning. They came through the cornfields and somehow Lucy lost her pocket purse with the money in it. She's down there looking for it now."

"Baby Cotton Candy and I will go down and help to look," said Posey. "Please keep my egg safe until I get back!"

So Baby Cotton Candy and Posey and Twinkles went across the farm yard into the cornfields, closing the gates carefully behind them. Kitty and Lucy were still there.

"Have you found your purse yet?" asked Posey.

Lucy shook her head. "The corn is so high now that I don't think we will ever find it," she said.

"Please don't give up. I'll pick some of the flowers. Perhaps it may have fallen among those," said Posey.

"Take care not to smell the poppies too deeply. They will send you to sleep," warned Lucy. "Look, Kitty has fallen asleep already. We'd better wake her up."

Posey shook the little girl gently. "Wake up, Kitty," she called. "Pony feathers, Lucy, I think that I've found your purse. Look, Kitty is lying on it. She's fallen asleep on a purse pillow... wait a minute... it's moving... there's something inside..."

"Wheat and chaff, Posey, we are glad Kitty has awoken," squeaked a tiny voice. "We thought this purse would make us a snug home and crept inside... but Kitty suddenly lay down on it."

"Flowery flowers, two little field mice," cried Posey, looking down as the small creatures crept out. Kitty sat up and rubbed her eyes sleepily.

"Heavy hooves, you poor little things," said Baby Cotton Candy. "Are you sure that you are all right?"

"Yes...but now we will have to look for a new home," sighed the fieldmice.

"It gets so cold in autumn once the fields are just stubble!"

"I'd take you home to live with me in our shoe, but there are such a lot of us there already, aren't there, Kitty?" said Lucky Locket.

Kitty nodded, giving each of the fieldmice an ear of corn to eat to show them that she was sorry about squashing them.

Suddenly the little mice squealed in horror. "A cat... a cat..." they shrieked.

"Pony feathers, Twinkles won't hurt you," said Peachy galloping up at that moment with Majesty and Lemon Drop at her heels.

Posey quickly explained about Lucy's missing purse and how they had found it again.

"Can the mice stay to lunch?" she asked.

"Happy hooves, yes, Mistress Pipp and I have been busy all morning, there's plenty for all... including two little fieldmice," replied Majesty, with a twinkle in her eye.

As everyone tucked in happily Majesty watched the baby ponies, especially Baby Cotton Candy playing and chatting to Freddie and Fanny the two mice.

When it was time to go the little mice looked very sad... and so did the baby ponies. "Majesty..." said Baby Cotton Candy. "I was wondering...?"

"If the baby ponies could have two little pets of their own?" interrupted Majesty with a smile. "Well, I'm sure we could find a little corner somewhere... not in the Lullaby Nursery.... baby ponies would never get to sleep... but I do know of a snug warm little corner in Dream Castle ... just big enough for two little mice!"

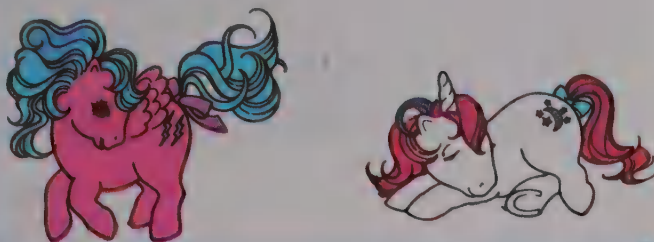
"Oh thank you, Majesty," cried Cotton Candy. "Now we have two special friends of our very own! And thank you, Posey, if you hadn't found Lucy's purse we would never have found our pets!"

Posey smiled and, carrying lots of flowers from the cornfield, she went back to the farm...for her very special egg.



My Little Pony

BABY BLOSSOM'S UNLUCKY DAY



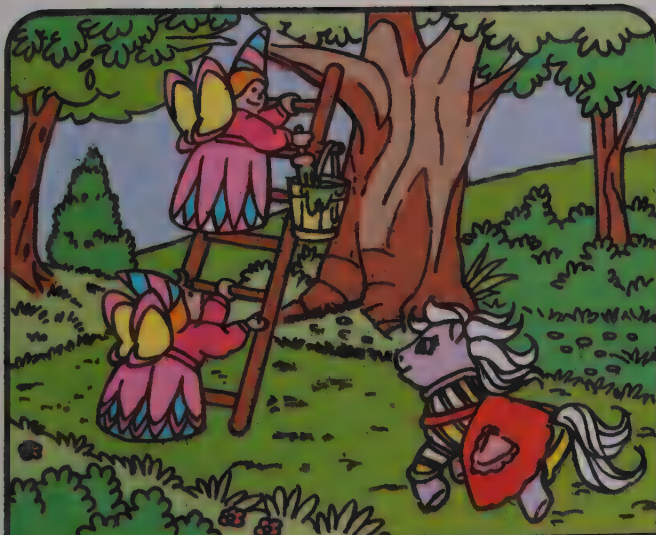
The baby ponies had been invited to a party by the Sugar Plum Fairies. They were excited!



"Baby Blossom, aren't you ready yet?" asked her friends. "We'll be late...you must catch us up!"



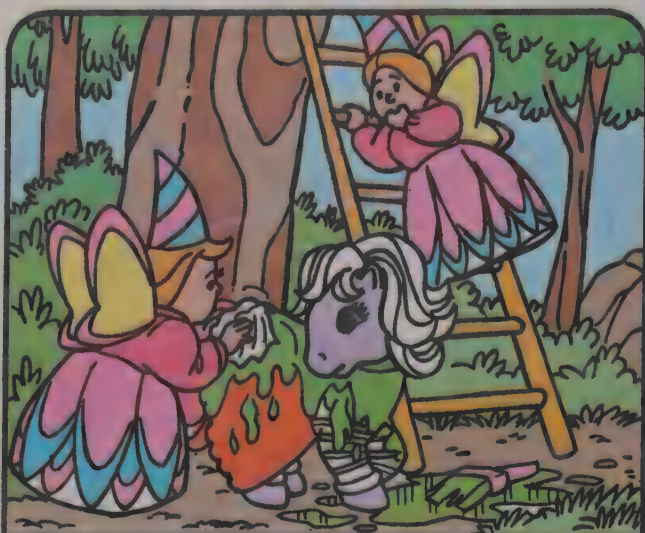
"Heavy hooves, there's Mag Magpie," said Baby Blossom. "One for sorrow...I hope I see another one quickly!"



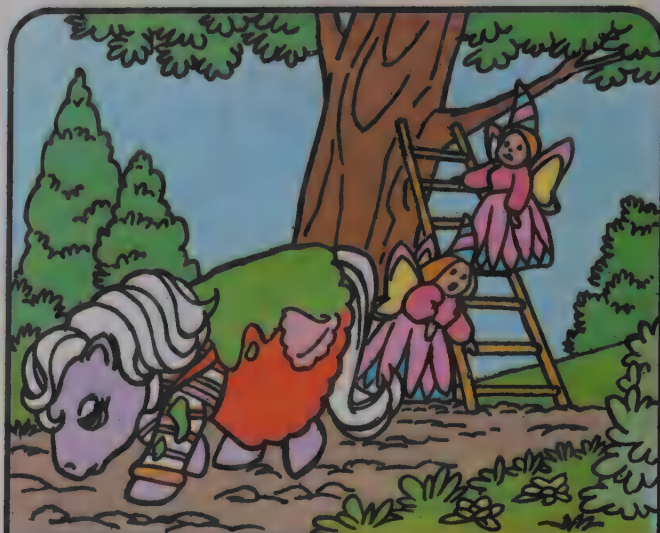
At last Baby Blossom was ready and she set off. On the way she saw the fairy painters!



"Don't walk under the ladder," cried Lilac. "I must...I'm in a hurry!" said the baby pony.



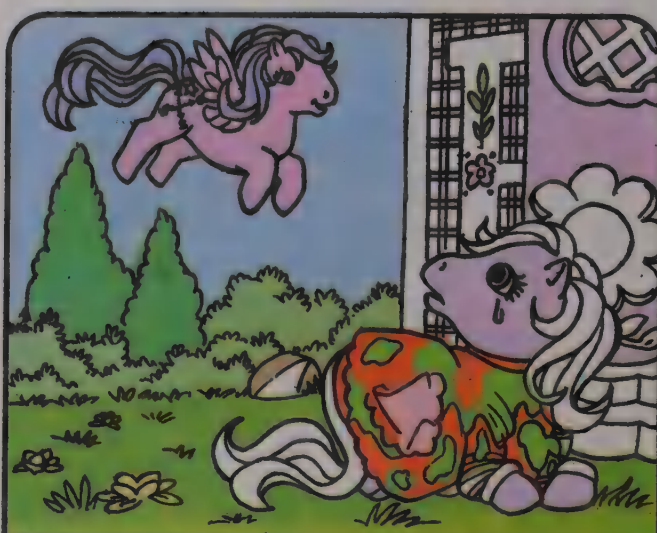
Suddenly, Scarlett dropped the brush...and splattered paint all over Baby Blossom! What a mess she was!



"I'm sorry," said the painter. "Now I will have to go back to change," sighed Baby Blossom.



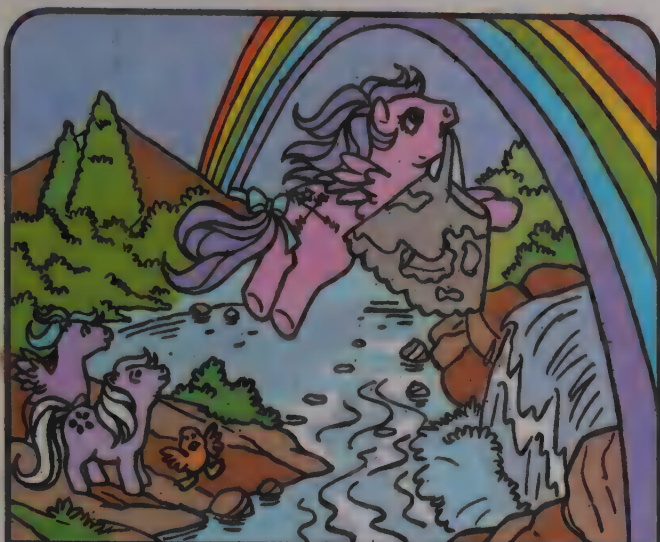
But, when she got back to the Lullaby Nursery, the door was stuck and she couldn't get in!



"Don't cry, Baby Blossom," called North Star who was passing. "Go and wash in the pool to get clean!"



So Baby Blossom went down to the pool and Duck Soup and Sprinkles splashed her, trying to get rid of the paint...but they splashed so hard that not only did the paint disappear...so did the colours in Baby Blossom's pinafore dress! "It looks horrid now!" she cried.



"Take your dress off and I'll dip it in the Rainbow. It'll soon dry in the sun," said North Star.



North Star spread the dyed costume on the grass and when it was dry it looked lovely! North Star smiled.



"I look better than I did before," cried the baby pony. "I do hope that the party hasn't started yet!"



"No, we can't start yet, we've no flowers for the table...and I can't find any anywhere!" said a little fairy.



"I'll show you where to find some," said Baby Blossom. "There are lots in Flowery Bower...it's on the way!"



How surprised her friends were to see her bright pinafore! "It wasn't an unlucky day after all," thought Blossom.

DRAGON MAGIC



"Majesty, when will Spike be back from the Land of Dragons?" asked Baby Lucky anxiously. "Will he be back tomorrow?"



"Baby Lucky's worried in case Spike isn't here for his birthday," said Heart Throb. "He'll be back," laughed Majesty.



"Of course he will," agreed Heart Throb. "It's Spike's birthday, too, remember." "His Special Birthday," added Sunbeam.



"Oh, yes!" said Baby Lucky. "Spike's great-grandfather gave him the Special Birthday last year, Spike shared it with me so we'd both be lucky forever. I'd forgotten that. I'll have to make him a card." "That's what we're doing," said Locket.



"Can I share your painting things?" asked Baby Lucky, trotting over to the table. "He'll see *his* cards," thought Sunbeam.



Majesty twirled her magic horn and the cards the ponies had made for Baby Lucky disappeared. Sunbeam sighed with relief!



"I'm going to paint a picture of a drum on Spike's card," decided the baby boy pony. "Spike likes drums."



"I've made him a trick card," said Locket. "Look, when you pull the key upwards a dragon pops out."



"Spike will like your card best," chuckled Baby Lucky. "It's a magic dragon card." "Dragons often are magic, aren't they?" said Heart Throb. "Only when they're hundreds and hundreds of years old," said Baby Lucky. "Spike told me that himself."



Meanwhile, Spike was on his way back from the Land of Dragons. He was walking very slowly because he was carrying a parcel.



"If only I was old enough to make Dragon Magic," muttered Spike, "I'd make this present for Pony Land carry itself!"



Maybe there was a bit of dragon magic around; when Spike picked the parcel up again it didn't seem quite as heavy.



It was a long way to Pony Land and by the time Spike could see Dream Castle, it was getting dark. Spike was so tired!



"It's no good," said poor Spike, "I can't carry this parcel any further. I'll leave it here until morning."



When Spike arrived at Dream Castle, Majesty sent him straight to bed. The little dragon was soon fast asleep.



Next morning, Spike and Baby Lucky were so busy opening their birthday cards that Spike forgot all about the parcel he'd left outside. But when he saw the magic dragon card from Locket, he remembered. "I needed some dragon magic yesterday!"



"What for?" asked Baby Lucky. "Great-grandfather sent a present for Pony Land," explained Spike. "It's outside."



"Whereabouts outside?" shouted Baby Lucky. "I love presents." "It's by the nursery," said Spike. "Come on, everyone."



"Listen, I can hear music!" said Baby Lucky as they hurried towards the nursery. "The baby ponies are playing Happy Birthday." "They're not. The music is coming from the parcel," shouted Spike. "What's happened to it? It wasn't that big yesterday!"



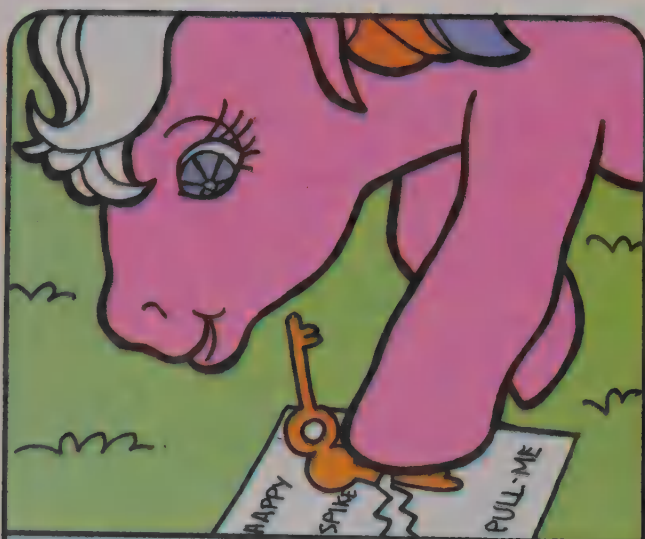
"I didn't make it big!" said Baby Lucky. "Manes and muzzles, I didn't." "It must have been Dragon Magic," said Spike.



"Spike! The parcel is unwrapping itself," called Locket. The music got louder and the babies hurried out from the nursery.



"Spike, where did it come from?" asked Baby Lickety-Split. "What is it?" asked Baby Surprise. "The writing says Baby Bonnet School of Dance," read Spike. "And my great-grandfather sent it. But I can't open the door. I need some dragon magic!"



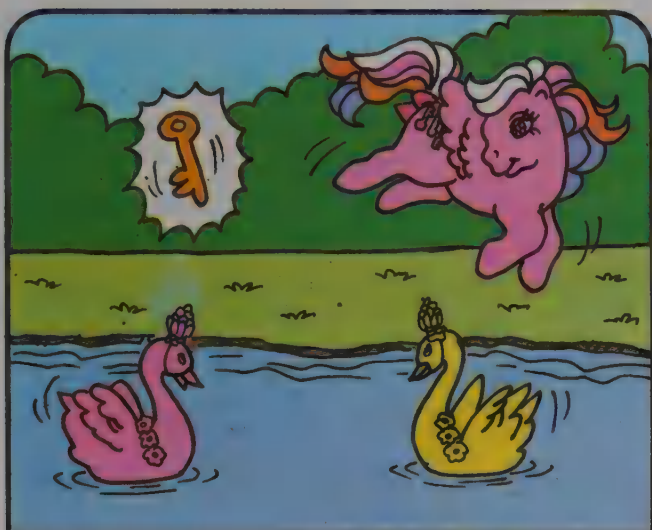
"Or pegasus magic," laughed Locket, and she touched the key on Spike's card. The key moved towards the door...



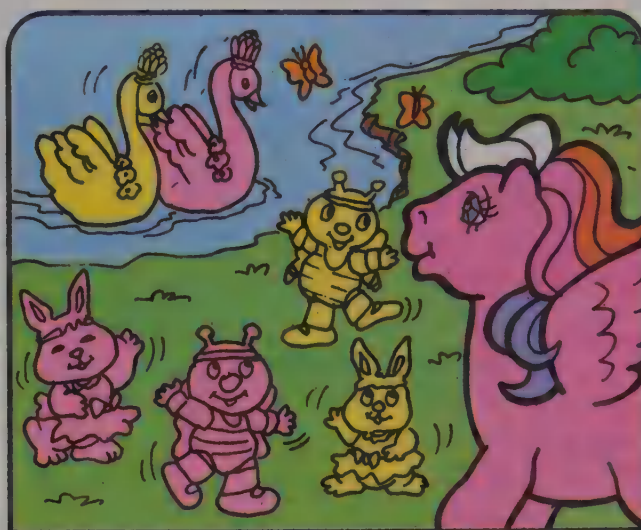
"It's a real dancing school!" said Spike. "What a lovely present from my great-grandfather. Happy Birthday to us!"



"Majesty," said Locket quietly, as they watched Spike and the ponies dancing to the music. "I think there is some Dragon Magic around. The key was supposed to go back onto the birthday card, but it's floating about up there!"



"Follow it, Locket," said Majesty. So Locket flew after the key. After a long time she saw a beautiful lake.



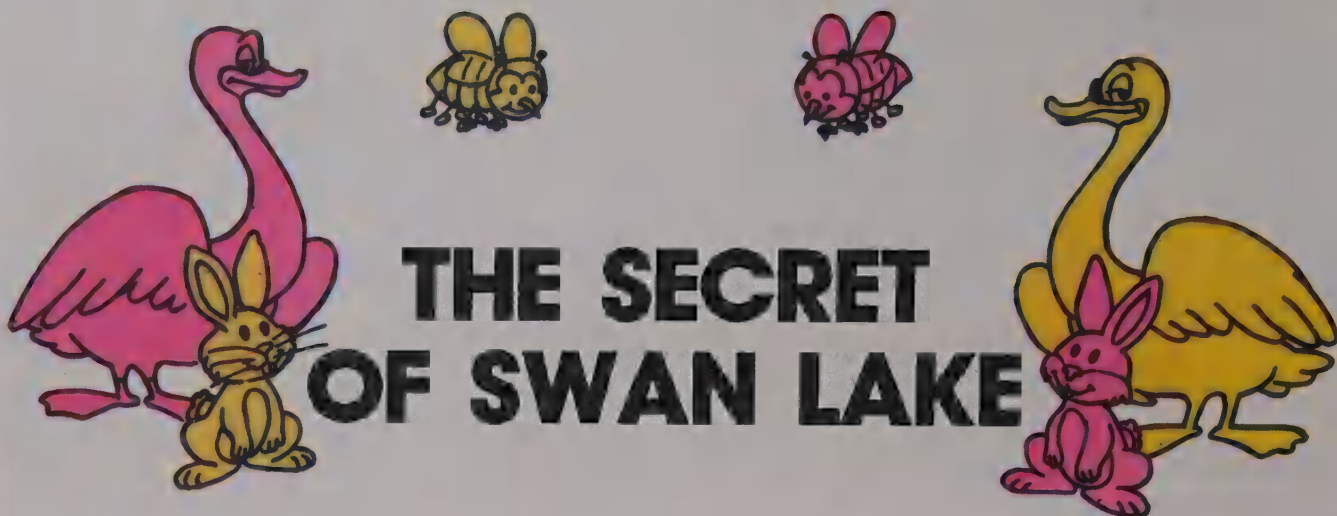
From his secret hiding place, Spike's great-grandfather smiled and nodded as he watched Locket land by the lake.



Locket felt very excited as she watched two swans swimming towards her. "The lilac swan is holding the key," she said.



"Locket, Dragon Magic has brought you here," said the yellow swan. "Now we will show you the secret of Swan Lake!"



THE SECRET OF SWAN LAKE

"Locket, before you learn the secret of Swan Lake, you must eat some of our special honey," a little yellow honey bee told her. "My name is Iris, which means messenger."

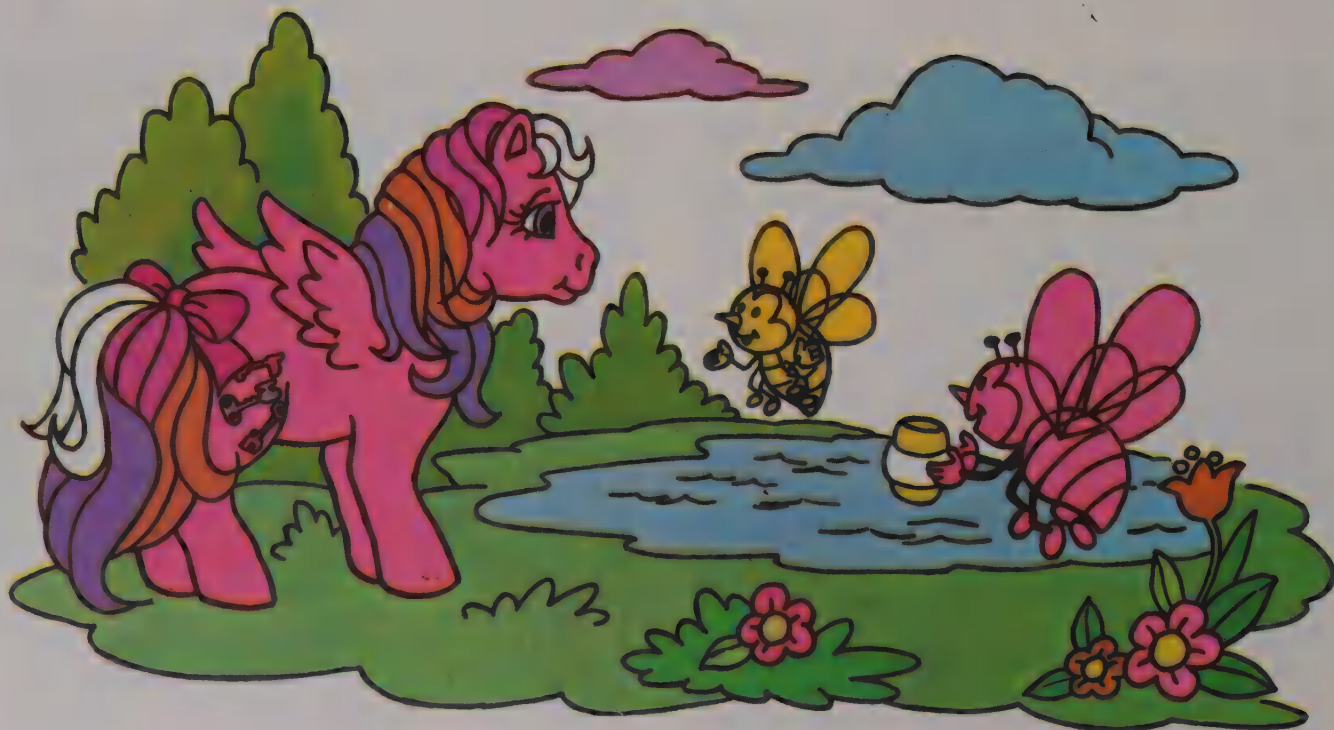
"So your message to me is to eat special honey?" laughed Locket.

"That's right," replied Iris. "My friend Pandora will give you some. Pandora's name means many gifts, the honey is just one gift."

The other honey bee smiled shyly as she handed a tiny comb of honey to Locket. "Many a time your friend Honeycomb almost found us and our honey," said Pandora. "But we knew we had to wait until Dragon Magic brought someone here."

"I think Dragon Magic stopped Honeycomb from finding us," said the yellow swan, as Locket ate the honey. "The Land of Dragons is quite near here, though we never actually visit it."

"The dragons always know where to find me," explained Iris. "They give me messages to bring to my friends here. Once, a very old dragon gave a message to Hop and Jump, the two little rabbits, but they forgot it by the time they got back to the lake."





"The message was something to do with Pony Land," said Hop, "but that's all we could remember."

"And we never saw the old dragon again," added Jump. "We think he went to the Land of Very Old Dragons, and we don't know where that is."

"Well, it doesn't matter now", said the lilac swan kindly. "I think everything is going to be made right today. Locket, you must take your key back now, Hop and Jump will give you some woven lace, you can tie it around your neck. Making lace is their special job," she added, smiling at the little rabbits.

"It's very pretty," said Locket, as she slipped the lace necklace over her head. "There, my key is perfectly safe now."

"Come on then," said the yellow swan. "You must follow us, Locket. The honey bees and rabbits will wait here."

The two swans flew gracefully into the sky and Locket followed them. "I didn't know your lake was so big," she said to Lucinda, the lilac swan.

"Some days it's big, other days it's small," said the lilac swan. "That's one of its secrets. And here's the secret we want to show you, she added. "Just look down there."

Locket looked down and below her was a small island. In the middle of the island was a lilac baby pony. She was wearing a white lacy tutu, a pretty tiara and leg warmers.

"That's Baby Half Note," said the yellow swan. She taught us all to dance. She wants to live in Pony Land but we couldn't work out how to get her off the island."

"I'll put my key around her neck," said Locket. "I'm sure something will happen then," and Locket flew down to Baby Half Note.

"Have you come to take me to Pony Land?" asked the baby pony eagerly. "I can't fly, or swim, you know."

"Just wear my magic key," said Locket, "I'll see you back in Pony Land." Locket put the key around the baby pony's neck and smiled as Baby Half Note disappeared!

"Has she gone to Pony Land?" asked the swans. "Now we can go, too. Will you bring Hop and Jump, Locket?"

"Of course," laughed Locket, "they're just over there, Swan Lake has gone small again. Let's fly over to them. Then, we'll fly to Pony Land. But Iris and Pandora must lead the way. Pandora is the one who gives many gifts."

"Which part of Pony Land shall I fly to?" asked the lilac honey bee.

"To the Baby Bonnet School of Dance," replied Locket. "Baby Half Note will be waiting there for you."

"This time, we won't have to travel through underground burrows to see Baby Half Note," said the two rabbits, as they scrambled onto Locket's back.

And as they all flew home to Pony Land, the beautiful Swan Lake disappeared!



My Little Pony

THE STARS OF THE PARTY



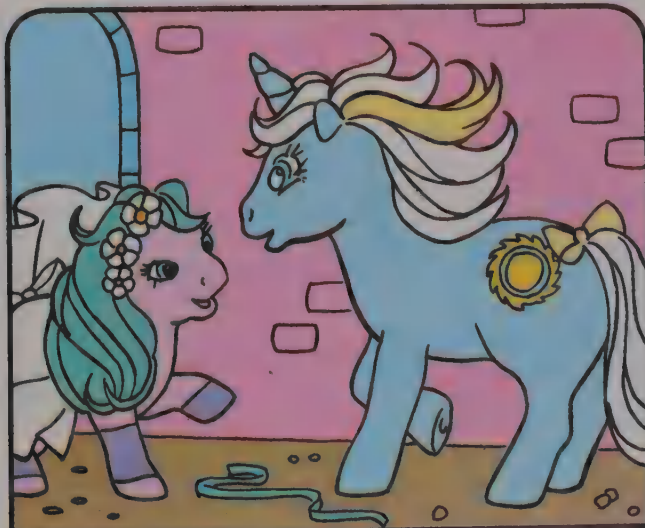
"Aren't we having a lovely birthday?" said Baby Lucky to Spike. "It's only lunch time and a lot's happened already."



"I like Baby Half Note and her friends," laughed Spike. "Fancy my great-grandfather having enough Dragon Magic to make Locket find them." "But you brought my School of Dance to Pony Land," said Baby Half Note, nuzzling the little dragon.



"Oh, look, here's Sunbeam," said Spike. "You haven't met her yet. She loves arranging parties."



"That's right, I do," said Sunbeam. "I've arranged a party for tonight." "Could I perform a dance?" asked Baby Half Note.



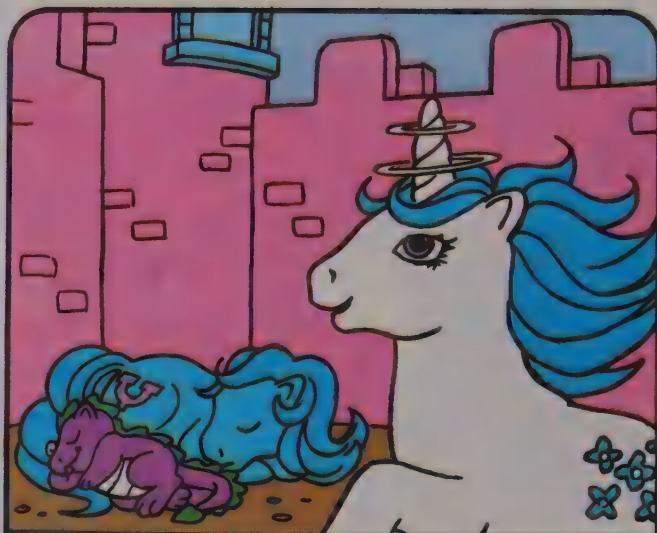
"She's very good," said Spike, "she danced for us earlier." "I'll dance now," laughed Baby Half Note, "I love dancing!"



Later, Sunbeam whispered something to Baby Half Note. The baby pony nodded then danced out of the courtyard.



"Nobody's to follow her," ordered Sunbeam. "It's a secret." Spike and Baby Lucky laughed as Sunbeam trotted away.

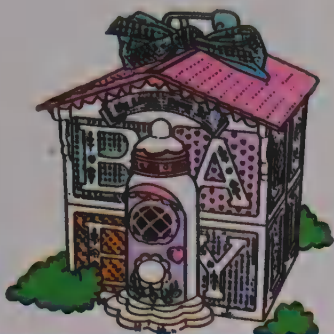


"It will be something to do with our party," Spike said happily. "You must rest now," Majesty told them.

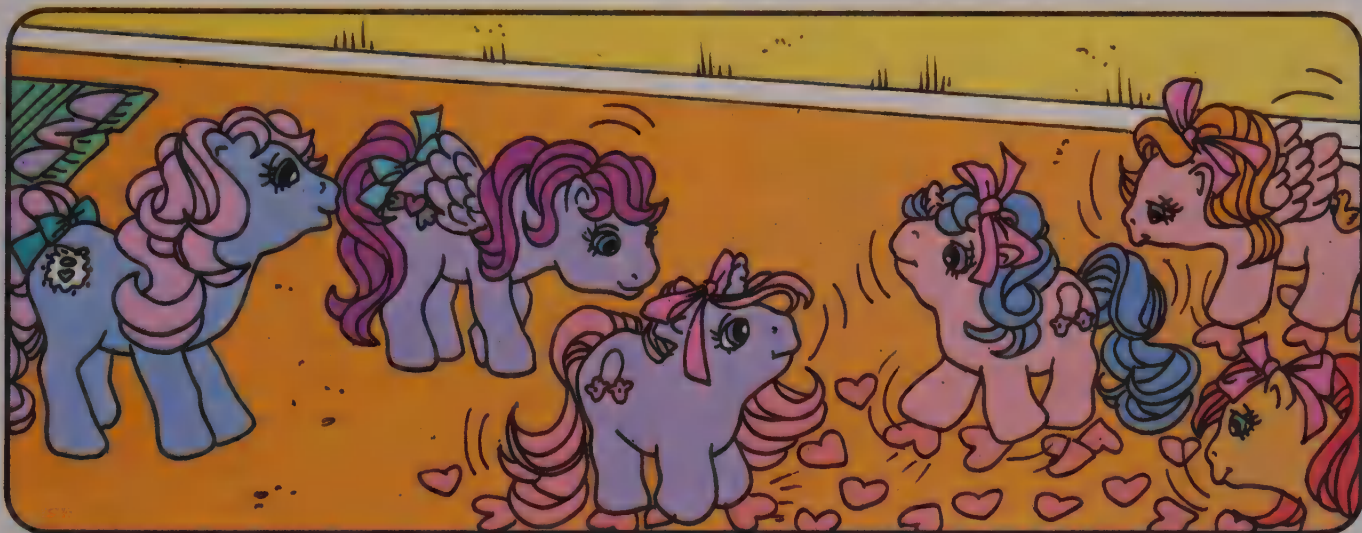


That night, everyone cheered Baby Half Note and her friends. "They're the stars of the party!" roared Spike. "Here are some Wishing Stars," laughed Twilight. "I wish to share Spike and Baby Lucky's birthday," said Baby Half Note. "Wish granted!" called Twilight.

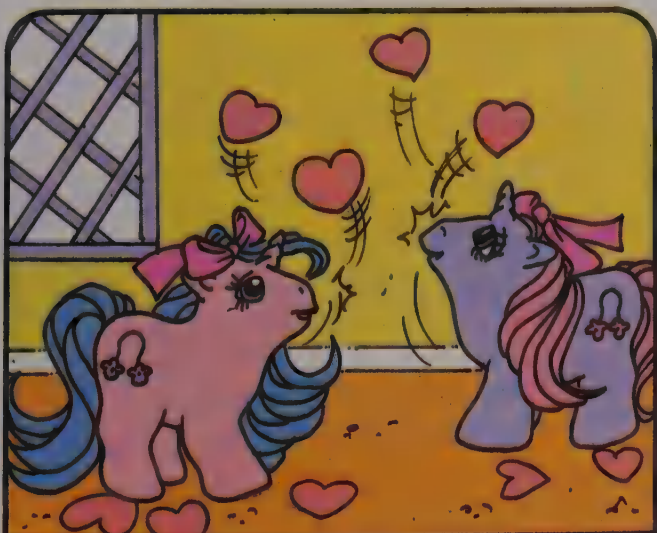
HAPPY HEARTS



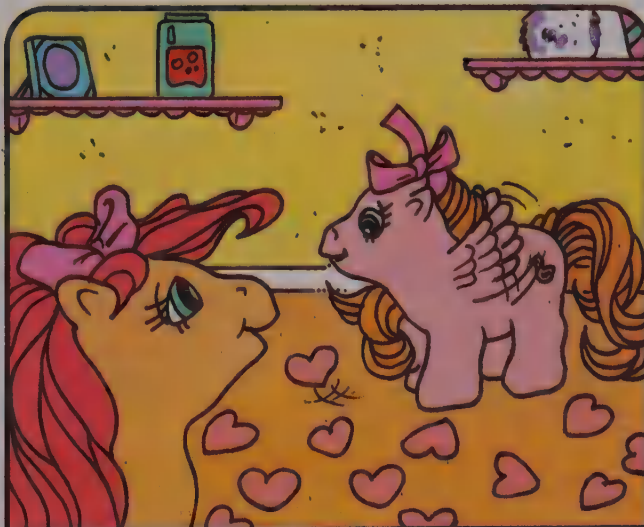
"Baby Tiddly Winks, could you think of a nice quiet game for the newborn twins to play?" asked Nurse Lollipop.



Baby Tiddly Winks laughed. "They do need something quiet to play," she agreed. "They're still very excited because they've been to two Valentine parties today." "I'm excited too," admitted Baby Heart Throb. "Just look at all these pretty pink love hearts."



"Happy hearts!" shouted Sniffles. "Lots of hearts!" shrieked Snookums, his twin sister. "Hearts-hearts..."



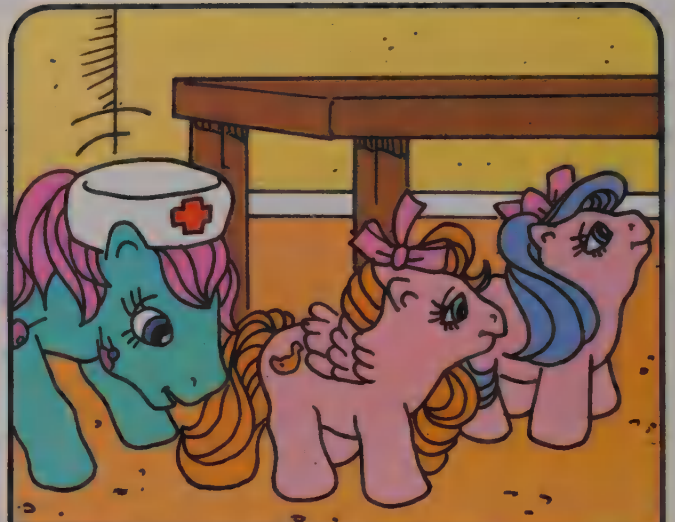
"Flying hearts!" laughed Dibbles. Nibbles fluttered her tiny wings and the paper hearts moved around the nursery.



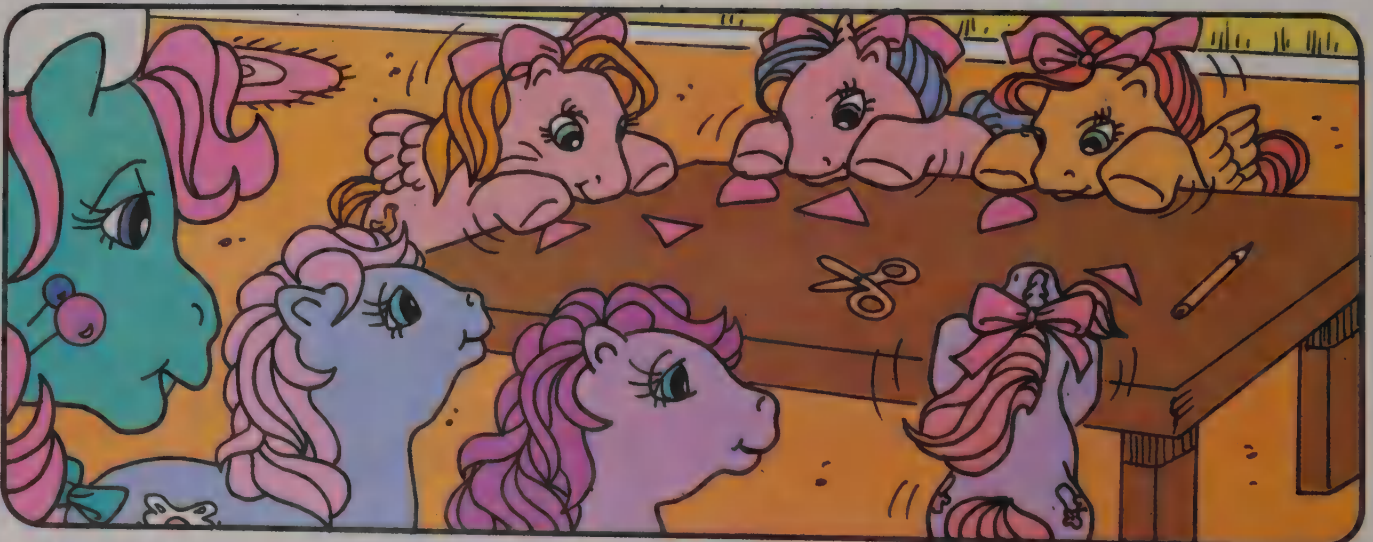
Baby Tiddly Winks picked up a few paper hearts and whispered something to Baby Heart Throb. "That's a good idea," said Baby Heart Throb. "Let's ask Lollipop to help us." Soon, Lollipop had cut each paper heart into six pieces.



"Right," said Baby Tiddly Winks to the newborn twins, "I want you all to come and stand by this little table."



Nibbles and Snookums were shouting loudly and didn't take any notice of Baby Tiddly Winks. Lollipop went to fetch them.



"Now," explained Baby Tiddly Winks. "Nurse Lollipop has cut four love hearts into six pieces. I want you to try and arrange the pieces into a heart shape again. The first one to do it must whisper 'Happy Heart' and there'll be a lollipop prize!"



THE COLOURFUL TRUCK



"Majesty! Where are you?" called Princess Ruby hurrying through Dream Castle's hallway and leaving a trail of golden ferns behind her. "I've just seen... I can't believe it... perhaps I'd better go back and have another look."

Sparks, Princess Ruby's dragon attendant, puffed and panted as he tried to follow his princess pony closely and pick up the scattered ferns at the same time. He'd just managed to gather them into a neat bunch when Princess Ruby hurried back towards him.

"Put the ferns on the table please, Sparks," said Princess Ruby. "I want to go back to Ferny Forest and see if... I can't believe what I saw, I must have another look and Majesty doesn't seem to be here."

"Is Princess Ruby feeling restless?" asked Baby Lucky, coming up behind Sparks. "I was in the throne room when I heard her calling Majesty, then she kept starting to say something and didn't finish what she was saying."

"I think she's excited about something she saw in the forest," explained Sparks. "I don't know what it was, I didn't have time to see it myself. And now she's going back to have another look. I'll have to hurry after her, Baby Lucky."

"I wish I could come with you," sighed Baby Lucky, "but I promised Majesty I'd tidy the throne room and I haven't finished yet."

"I'll tell you all about it when we come back," promised Sparks, and he dashed away to catch up with Princess Ruby.

"I can't see it anywhere, can you?" Princess Ruby asked Sparks when they reached Ferny Forest.



"I don't really know what you're looking for," said Sparks.

"It was over there moving along the path," said the princess pony. "You must have seen it, Sparks. It was ever so bright and moving very quickly."

Sparks sighed and pulled at his ear. He couldn't think *what* Princess Ruby was talking about. "That path leads to Fairy Glen," Sparks said helpfully. "Maybe whatever you saw is there. It can't have been the travelling fairies you saw, they don't arrive until June."

"Let's go to Fairy Glen and have a look then," Princess Ruby said eagerly. "Oh, I do hope we find it."

"I wish I knew what we were looking for," muttered Sparks to himself. "Drastic dragons, I'd better get in front of Princess Ruby in case we find something dangerous."

Sparks puffed out his chest, to make himself look bigger, as he marched bravely along in front of Princess Ruby. "I'm a brave, bold dragon," he said over and over again. "I'm guarding my princess pony. I'm a brave, bold..."

Suddenly, a bright lilac truck appeared in the distance. "There it is!" said Princess Ruby. "I told you I'd seen it, didn't I?"

"Yes, you did, you did," agreed Sparks. "I think perhaps you'd better get off the path, Princess Ruby. The truck is moving very quickly. It might not stop."

But the truck had begun to slow down and from inside it, Sparks and Princess Ruby heard a friendly-sounding voice giving orders. "Wheels cease turning, truck move no more, then let the handle **OPEN THE DOOR!**"



Even though the voice sounded friendly, Sparks kept telling himself that he was a brave, bold dragon. He puffed out his chest as he watched the door of the truck opening. "Please stand back, Princess Ruby," he said, but the princess pony laughed and stepped forward.

Sparks dodged around anxiously, trying to stay in front of Princess Ruby; how he wished all his dragon friends were with him! Then he laughed with relief as a big boy pony stepped out of the truck.

"How do you do?" said the boy pony, bowing to Princess Ruby. "I do hope you weren't worried when you saw my truck. I'm Trucker and my colourful truck and I drive all over the place. I don't think I've ever driven to Pony Land before."

"You haven't!" roared Sparks excitedly. "I'm sure we would have seen you if you had." The dragon suddenly remembered his manners and introduced Princess Ruby to the big boy pony. "And I'm Sparks, Princess Ruby's attendant," he added proudly.

"Delighted to meet you," said Trucker, bowing again. "You must meet my five friends now!" Trucker went to the back of the truck and opened the rear doors. One by one, his five friends jumped out; each one bowing to Princess Ruby.

"We're the Adventure Boy Ponies," said Trucker.

"Pony Land is adventurous," Sparks told them. "Please stay here, I'm sure you'll have lots of adventures if you do."

"I'm sure we will, too," agreed Trucker. "We've lots of things to help us find adventures, that's why we're called Adventure Boy Ponies."









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